Dudley
CHRONICLE
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DRUG DEALERS PUT BEHIND BARS

Report by Rob Cox

THREE men involved in a drugs conspiracy to supply addicts across the Black Country have been jailed for a total of nearly 11 years.

For six months Dishon Cassell and Kareem White fueled addiction by supplying heroin and crack cocaine.

The class A drugs were cut, packaged and distributed from a home in Rugeley Close, Tipton, where Cassell's girlfriend was living.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the third man, Theo White, had only been involved on October 15 last year, the day the enterprise fell apart and the three were arrested.

Cassell, of Belle Vale, Cradley, was handed a four-and-a-half year sentence, while Kareem White, of Camden Street, Hockley, was sentenced to three years and nine months. Theo White, of Rubery Drive, Rowley Regis, will serve a two-and-a-half year sentence. They were sentenced last week having admitted conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine.

Undercover

Ms Samantha Powis, prosecuting, told the court the conspiracy was foiled by an undercover police operation centred on the Tipton property and two cars. All three men were arrested on October 15 last year near Hagley Road, Halesowen.

In the Ford Fiesta police found 10 wraps of heroin, a rock of cocaine and two mobile phones. From the Audi, five phones and £1,690 in cash was recovered. Subsequent searches uncovered heroin worth £2,000 at the Tipton home, alongside cocaine, weighing scales and £1,000 cash.

Ms Powis said analysis of the phones showed large amounts of contact between Cassell, aged 24, and Kareem White, 21. She told the court: "Cassell was directing the operation in a meaningful role and was giving Kareem White instructions and post codes. They were talking about supplies and if stocks were low."

The court heard Cassell had a string of convictions including possession of a weapon, robbery and affray.

Martin Butterworth, defending Cassell, told the court it had not been a sophisticated operation. He said: "Yes, he had the significant role of the three but he was still a foot soldier."

Tom Walkling, defending Kareem White, said he was motivated by financial desperation and was on "the last rung of the ladder before the user." Matthew Barnes, defending, said that Theo White, 27, who was on licence when arrested, made a 'poor decision' to get involved.

Judge Andrew Lockhart QC, told the three: "These were highly addictive drugs you were selling. Quite apart from the harm caused to those addicted to them, they cause a great amount of harm in the community by reason of those desperate people carrying out other offences to fund their habits."

WISE MOVE AS HALL ATTRACTS OWL SANCTUARY

Owl enthusiasts Alan Peace, Jo Ellis, Barbara Brittain and Ivan Ellis, look at plans for the new centre at Himley Hall's walled garden

WORK has started on a new £900,000 owl sanctuary which is winging its way to Himley Park.

The World Owl Trust is behind ambitious plans to create the sanctuary at the old walled garden in the park.

Work has got under way to clear more than 20 years worth of debris and undergrowth on the two-and-a-half-acre site.

The trust holds some of the finest and most diverse collection of breeding birds in the UK, consisting of about 190 birds of 52 species – some of which can be seen nowhere else.

Alan Peace, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "This is a massive project which will have a huge impact on the area. To have an international organisation like this moving into Himley is a major coup."

The project will also see an education centre, tea room and shop built at the site.

Mr Peace said: "We can't wait to take over the old walled garden. It was pretty overgrown and jungle-like, so much so that you could hardly get into it, but the surroundings were superb for us. Among all the trees we can build new aviaries for the birds.

"The trust is also hoping to be able to find enough volunteers who are able to give the time and energy to help clear the site," he added.

It is hoped that around 100 owls will eventually be taking their perch at the sanctuary.

Some of the owls had been found a temporary home at South Staffordshire College's Rodbaston Campus in Penkridge.

Anyone who would like to get involved with the charity can contact Mr Peace on 07791 900445 for more information.

PETITION

Thousands backing call to save museum

A PETITION opposing plans to shut Dudley Museum and Art Gallery has almost 4,000 signatures.

Campaigners have urged the cash-strapped council to rethink proposals to close the historic attraction in St James's Road after 3,898 people added their names to the online petition.

The museum faces closure because the council needs to save £20 million after Government funding was cut.

Petition organiser Ross Crompton said closing the borough's 'prized asset' would be detrimental to future generations

JOBS

Burger King dishes up move to centre

FAST food chain Burger King has announced plans for a restaurant at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, creating new jobs.

Dudley Council planners have approved the extension and alteration of an empty retail building in Waterfront Way, off Level Street.

The exact number of new jobs has not yet been revealed by the chain.

Also approved by planners was an application for a car wash for a site at Point West at The Waterfront.

TRAFFIC

Potential delays at Merry Hill roadworks

A NEW set of roadworks near the Merry Hill centre were starting this week, potentially causing hold-ups for shoppers hoping to get to the complex during the half-term holiday

Resurfacing work at the junction of the A4036 Merry Hill and The Boulevard is being carried out as part of a wider project to ease congestion around the busy centre.

The roadworks are included in a £500,000 scheme to improve traffic flow around Merry Hill by upgrading traffic lights. Work started last month in High Street and Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank.

INSIDE
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Care home told it needs to improve

A CARE home in Dudley has been told it 'requires improvement' after an inspection.

Greenleigh care home, on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, looks after older people who may have dementia and is registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to 35 people.

The unannounced Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection took place on December 3 and 4 last year.

The report found that the service to the 32 people living in the home was not consistently safe and they were at risk of not always receiving their medication as prescribed, or 'in line with manufacturers guidelines.'

It stated that staff lacked direction and leadership, which led to people being kept waiting to be supported.

The home also required improvement in being an effective service, after being labelled as 'inconsistent'.

Busy

The report said: "People told us that the staff were always busy and had mixed views about whether there were enough of them."

On inspection, one member of staff was responsible for giving people their medication and also serving their breakfast, which meant people were kept waiting. At lunchtime it was noted that staff time was not allocated 'efficiently', with a number of people on one table finishing their meals whilst others had been waiting for 30 minutes to be served.

The manager had acknowledged to officers that staff time could be better managed and would be looking at the allocation of staff with immediate effect.

However, the care home was deemed good in being a caring and responsive service, with the report stating people spoke positively about the staff who care for them.

The care home did not wish to comment.

Animal sanctuary is no eyesore says boss

THE owner of an animal sanctuary in Sedgley has hit back at claims it is an 'eyesore' – saying more than £50,000 has been spent on it in recent years.

Brockswood, in Catholic Lane, was labelled as being in a 'sorry state' by UKIP members.

However, Neil Swann says he has put investment into the site along with maintenance and improvement costs.

He explained: "It is well known that the site was in a near derelict state when taken over by Brockswood but we were not responsible for the decline of what was once called Cotwall End Nature Centre. However, we have done significant work to improve the site over recent years.

"Some examples of this include £20,000 on new paddock fencing and a £50,000 investment to renovate some of the buildings on site and the creation of two classrooms which has proven to be a massive benefit to local students studying animal care.

Investors

"Many more thousands of pounds have been spent repairing land drains and doing general maintenance work too."

Earlier this month, UKIP Councillor and Euro MP Bill Etheridge, who represents Sedgley ward, said he had been approached by potential investors asking what was happening with the sanctuary. He said: "To my mind, either the sanctuary should be forced to restore the place, or a new tenant should be sought with a vision to maximise a great opportunity."

Shaun Keasey, UKIP's representative for the ward, also classed the site as a 'half-closed eyesore' that was in a 'sorry state'.

Mr Swann hit back against claims saying: "To say there has been no work done or investment in the site is quite frankly ludicrous and completely inaccurate.

"We do close over the winter but for good reasons. The close-down period allows us to concentrate on maintenance and making improvements that would be difficult whilst open to the public. Alongside our work with sick and unwanted animals we provide over 50 students a year with work experience ."

The site is regularly inspected by Dudley Council and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Happy Jack celebrates 108th birthday

Jack Jones, 108, who is believed to be the oldest person in the Midlands, celebrates his birthday at Stourbridge

HE'S lived during two world wars, 20 prime ministers and the reign of four kings and a queen – and now Baggies superfan Jack Jones has celebrated turning 108.

Jack, who is believed to be the oldest person in the Midlands, says he 'takes every day as it comes' and being sociable is the secret to old age.

He celebrated Friday's momentous occasion with a modest party with tea and cake, surrounded by family.

Jack was born on February 12, 1908, when King Edward VII was on the throne.

Life-long West Bromwich Albion fan Jack, who lives at Tudor Manor care home in Stourbridge, said: "The secret to old age is being sociable – meeting new people and always helping people. I just take every day as it comes.

"The people here in the care home are so nice to me and look after me – it's like being part of a big family.

"I don't want anything special for my birthday, I don't really need anything."

During the Second World War Jack helped build Spitfires and after spent much of his working life as a lorry driver, as well as working in the metal industry.

Jack married his wife Winifred in 1939 but she passed away in 1989. The couple did not have children, but Jack was joined by nieces and nephews to celebrate his landmark birthday

Car crooks' appeals on sentencing dismissed

A GANG of crooked car breakers who dismantled £240,000 worth of high value stolen vehicles – including Audis and BMWsa – and sold them on online auction site eBay, have been told their sentences were not a day too long.

Ringleader Luke Arnold, 31, along with mechanic, Robert Wood, 26, and money man, Duncan Taylor, 47, fenced the cars, many of which were taken during burglaries.

Operating out of workshops in Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath, and in Bromsgrove, they disguised the illegal nature of their trade by selling the vehicles bit by bit on the internet.

Wood, of Dawlish Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, and Taylor, of Station Road, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, were each jailed for three and a half years in July last year after pleading guilty to conspiring to handle stolen goods at Birmingham Crown Court. Arnold, of no fixed abode, admitted the same offence and was handed four years eight months behind bars.

Last week all three asked London's Criminal Appeal Court to reduce their sentences. Lawyers for the trio argued that they had not been given enough credit for their guilty pleas.

But Mr Justice Cooke said: "This handling was in the most serious category, this was a professional handling conspiracy. Whilst these sentences were harsh, they were in our judgement justified."

The judge, sitting with Lord Justice Treacy and Mr Justice Edis, dismissed the appeals.

Memorial darts contest on way

THE tenth annual John Westwood Memorial Open darts knockout is being played in Pensnett in April.

The tournament, which costs £5 to enter, will be from 2pm in Pensnett Social Welfare Club, Commonside, on April 9.

John Westwood, a well-known local darts player despite being registered blind, died in 2006, aged 59, leaving wife Anita and son Carl. The money raised from the raffle on the day will go towards the renewal of his memorial bench at Gornal Wood Crematorium.

The 501 knockout will best of five with the semi-final best of seven and the final best of nine.

John was also a keen fisherman and there is also an annual fishing tournament in his memory.

Romance author to meet his fans

AUTHOR Michael Taylor give a talk at Coseley Library in Castle Street on Thursday, February 25, from 10.30am. Dudley-born Mr Taylor has written historical romances set locally, including Eve's Daughter. Places are free but must be booked on (01384) 812775.

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Superfast internet is rolled out to 10,000

MORE than 10,000 businesses and households are now able to access high-speed fibre broadband thanks to the Black Country Broadband Project.

Parts of Dudley, Walsall, Wednesbury, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton are among the latest areas to benefit from the project, which is being led by Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and BT.

The areas to benefit are Bentley, Blackheath, Brierley Hill, Castle ward, Darlaston, Ettingshall, Netherton, Priory, Rowley, St Andrews, St James', St Paul's, St Thomas's, the centre of West Bromwich and Woodside.

As part of the roll-out, engineers have already installed more than 80 fibre broadband road-side cabinets, which are needed to connect to the new network.

Work has also started on the second phase of the roll-out, which is extending the reach of the technology to additional parts of Brierley Hill, Dudley, James Bridge, Streetly, Tipton and Willenhall.

Ninder Johal, chair of the Black Country Broadband Group and a board member of the local enterprise partnership, said: "A superfast internet connection can make the world of difference to businesses and homes, so reaching the 10,000 milestone is a huge step in delivering our ambition of a minimum 98 per cent high-speed fibre broadband availability across the Black Country by the end of June 2017."

£1,000 through online donations

THE Mayor of Dudley has received £1,000 in online donations for his charities in just six months.

Councillor Steve Waltho opened the facility on BT My Donate, allowing people to donate via mobile phone or computer. The mayor is raising money for five charities this year – The Hope Centre, Halesowen; The What Centre, Stourbridge; More Mascots Please, Brierley Hill; The Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund; Russells Hall Hospital; and the West Midlands branch of Lupus UK, based in Coseley.

Councillor Waltho said: "I am so pleased that people are choosing to help me raise funds for these deserving charities." People can donate online at mydonate.bt.com/charities/mayorofdudleyscharities

New homes will replace offices

FORMER council offices in Dudley town centre will be demolished to make way for homes. The Family and Community Support Services base in Greystone Passage will be replaced with 16 semi-detached houses.

Credit controller stole £81k from firm

A CREDIT control supervisor who fleeced her employer out of more than £80,000 has been given a 20-month jail sentence after pleading guilty to theft.

Mother-of-two Joanne Kudlacek intercepted payments intended for her employers and channelled them into her two bank accounts of her own, a judge was told at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

The 43 year old, from Wombourne, got away with the swindle for almost three years, until by chance a phone call that was intended for her was answered by a colleague instead.

Kudlacek, who had worked for London and Cambridge Properties in Kingswinford since 2001, was promoted to the post of credit control supervisor after eight years. But she turned to crime in October 2011, said Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting. She intercepted a cheque sent to the firm by bailiffs employed to collect unpaid rents and then told them their payment had not arrived.

Kudlacek asked for a replacement electronic money transfer to be sent but gave her bank account details instead of those of her employer. She pulled off the scam 32 times over a period of two years and eight months, while also pocketing cash paid direct by a tenant.

Kudlacek was arranging for a further £5,092 to be paid by money transfer from the bailiffs when their phone call to check if it should go to 'the normal account' was answered by a surprised colleague who triggered an internal inquiry.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said the stolen cash had been used to pay off mortgage arrears together with personal debts run up by Kudlacek, including one to a loan shark. Mr Hanns explained: "She did most of the family finances and her husband knew nothing of this."

He continued: "She is so ashamed that she had not even told him or their children of her court appearance. She has buried her head in the sand about what she has done and is now going to have to have an incredibly difficult conversation with members of her family."

Kudlacek, of Forge Leys, who was of previous good character, admitted the theft of £81,61. She now faces a proceeds of crime hearing.

Tesco online warehouse hit by mine shaft worry

A PLAN by Tesco for a dedicated warehouse for online sales has hit a stumbling block because the intended site is over a mine entrance.

The DotCom centre could create more than 70 jobs and be used to deliver goods and groceries to shoppers' homes from the Burnt Tree Island supermarket.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council for three extensions to the superstore, including one underneath the ground floor using some of the car park.

But the Coal Authority has lodged an official objection to the proposals because one of the extensions would be built over an entry to a mine. It believes the supermarket giant has not provided sufficient information on how the risks would be mitigated. The shaft entry is one of 14 in or near the site.

In a letter to council planners, Coal Authority planning liaison manager James Smith said: "We raised concerns that the extension to the western side of the building would be located over (a) recorded mine entry.

"We highlighted that building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry raises significant safety and engineering risks and exposes all parties to potential financial liabilities.

Policy

"The Coal Authority has adopted a policy where, as a general precautionary principle, the building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry should wherever possible be avoided.

"Our adopted policy clearly states that building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry will only be permissible when a suitable engineering design is developed and agreed to take account of all the relevant safety and environmental risk factors including gas and mine-water."

A spokesman for Tesco said the application was still going through the planning process.

Castle and Priory ward's Councillor Ken Finch said he was aware of the industrial history of the site. He added: "There used to be a press company on the site during war time called Hewitts. There may have been open cast mines there too but that would be going back to the 1930s."

Tesco's application says up to 13 full and part-time jobs would be created, followed by a further 61 positions.

Family pet Mila was viciously kicked by burglars which has left the friendly terrier with nerve damage and large vet bills for her owners

£7,000 raised to help dog recover

MORE than £7,000 has been donated towards vet bills for Halesowen owners of a dog badly beaten by burglars.

Mila, an 18-month-old Bedlington terrier, was repeatedly kicked in the head and left with nerve damage that means she cannot put her front feet on the ground.

Fundraising initiatives set up online have so far raised more than £7,000 to help Mila's owners, Julie Green and her 16-year-old daughter Maddie.

The burglars, who left empty handed, raided the Green family home on Albrighton Road between 6pm and 7.30pm on Thursday.

Mrs Green said: "I'm just shocked and heartbroken that someone could do this to Mila. She is the friendliest dog."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Online fundraising by the family has raised £5,522 while an initiative by well-wisher Kieran Brophy has been supported to the tune of £1,555. Mrs Green said: "It means a lot to our family that there are so many caring people out there."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Library shake-up backed by cabinet

A SHAKE-UP of library services across Dudley which will see them run independently of the council has been backed by senior councillors.

The council cabinet backed a plan to establish a Libraries, Archives and Learning Mutual, a not-for-profit organisation which would involve services being run by council employees and volunteers.

A final decision will be made by the full council in April.The cost-cutting move could see opening hours reduced and many libraries going down to a single staff member.

Young actors can audition for show

A THEATRE company in Dudley is looking for young actors to audition later this month for their new show.

Pink Productions' former members include One Direction's Liam Payne. Their new show, Electricity, is being staged at the Mill Theatre, Sedgley, in June and will be packed with songs from popular West End musicals, including Billy Elliot. Auditions cost £2, held on Sunday at Holy Trinity Church, Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park Estate. Under 13s are at 12.15 pm, over 13s at 1.30pm. Call 01902 682087 or 07763 847811.

Tuffers to speak at charity dinner

TV presenter and ex-England cricketer Phil Tuffnell will be speaking at a charity dinner in Brierley Hill.

The Mary Stevens Hospices Sportsman Dinner, is being held at the Copthorne Hotel on April 14. The event will also include a three course meal, comedian Gary Marshall and will be hosted by Radio WM's Paul Franks. All proceeds will go to hospice care. Tickets cost £55 per individual or £50 each for a table of eight or ten. Call (01902) 244220.

Students creating art for canal towpath

HALESOWEN College has launched a brand new partnership with Coombs Wood Canal Trust to help design a new piece of artwork for a towpath.

The project is in its early stages with students starting to research the history of the area. Then it is planned for art students to come up with designs to be placed along the canal towpath.

Elaine Cammies, community participation director at Halesowen College, said: "It is a great experience for our students."

Artist has exhibition

BLACK Country artist David Johnson is to have an exhibition in Dudley town centre. DJ – Painter will run at Dudley Artspace in Birdcage Walk from a launch event tomorrow (Friday) through to March 24. Mr Johnson works mainly in oils and has led on several community mural projects.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THAT awkward moment on Crimewatch when a mugshot of a criminal bore a striking resemblance to presenter Jason Mohammed, takes me back to the 1970s when I was working Oop North. A handbag snatcher struck. His shocked victim, who barely saw the robber, said he looked a bit like a sports reporter on the local paper, whose byline photo appeared in every edition. The cops went to the newspaper office and took away the bewildered, and blameless, hack for questioning.

MORE things we believed in childhood. A reader writes: "As a youngster who had to attend Sunday School, I could never understand how Jesus was born on December 25 and died at Easter but managed to become a man and perform countless miracles in three or four months." And a lady who grew up in the 1950s recalls: "I believed you got pregnant by sitting in the back row of the cinema. I turned down many dates as a consequence until I eventually found out the truth."

ACCORDING to some reports, holiday bookings to Turkey are down 40 per cent because British trippers are scared of terrorist attacks. Well, that's one explanation. Another is that we have seen the world's biggest and most brutal people-smuggling operation grow and thrive under the eyes of the Turkish authorities, threatening our borders and littering the Mediterranean beaches with drowned children. Does Turkey deserve our custom?

A 44-year-old stalker who pestered the One Show presenter Alex Jones turned up at court wearing a back-to-front baseball cap. He was served with a restraining order. Come to think of it, if every male over 40 who wears a baseball cap the wrong way around were held under house arrest, wouldn't the world be a happier place?

SPARE us the attempted posthumous conversion of Terry Wogan. He was a declared lifelong atheist. Yet some want to turn the Godless Wogan into something else. Their argument goes: Terry was a good man, therefore he was close to God. The idea that an atheist might be a good person doesn't even enter their thinking. Wogan saw the real, unfair world, including the nastier side of Catholicism, and drew his own conclusions: no God, no Heaven, no Hell, just the eternal goodness of humanity. Wogan was a good atheist and his views should be respected, not turned upside-down by the God-botherers.

THEY are not cardboard, metal, textile or paper. They are not compostable and they aren't electrical goods. So how do I recycle my old hot-water bottle?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Wings charity show in doubt again

THE future of a popular charity show has been plunged into doubt for a second time after people near its new venue created an 'uproar'.

Villagers living near the new home of Wings and Wheels, which had lost its former site at Halfpenny Green Airport, are up in arms at the prospect of the two-day event being held at Lower Cockshutt Farm in Chetton, near Bridgnorth.

Site owner Roy Millington had stepped in to save the twice-yearly charity show by offering his land but he was forced to withdraw the offer after neighbours complained.

The organisers of the event, which was being renamed the Bridgnorth Wings and Wheels, said villagers mistakenly believed the event would be staged on the same scale as previous shows which drew up to 5,000 people.

The Bridgnorth Wings and Wheels Facebook page said Mr Millington had cancelled the event to avoid upsetting his neighbours.

Alec Brew, curator of Tettenhall Museum of Transport, which is funded by the show, said people had wrongly come to the conclusion that the event, scheduled to take place on Easter Sunday and Monday, would include fly-pasts. But the new event would have been more accurately described as 'a large village fete', with planes started up but none actually leaving the ground.

A maximum of 2,000 people over the two days were anticipated.

He said the term 'air show' had alarmed people. "It's a very narrow terminology, perhaps we should have called it an 'air day'. It's just unfortunate," he said.

Redundancy payments by councils total £50m

By Peter Madeley

COUNCILS across the Black Country and Staffordshire have spent almost £50 million on redundancy payments to staff in the last five years.

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request shows that Dudley Council has paid out more than £21m, Wolverhampton City Council spent more than £13m, while Walsall Council coughed up £5,947,094.

Across the Black Country's four authorities 5,391 staff were either made redundant or took voluntary redundancy in that time.

The huge payouts have come during a time when the region's authorities are making massive budget cuts to meet swingeing reductions to central government grants.

Sandwell Council failed to respond to the FOI request – despite being given 60 working days to do so.

Staffordshire County Council has shelled out almost £30m in redundancy payments since 2010/11.

Savings

Dudley Council paid out £21,334,000 to 1,447 departing staff members. The figure includes almost £8.5 million in redundancy payouts in 2010/11, when 529 people were either laid off or took voluntary redundancy.

Wolverhampton Council paid 1,546 workers a total of £13,680,707. Payouts included £6,742,427 in 2013/14 when 777 employees were either laid off or took voluntary redundancy.

Finance chief Councillor Andrew Johnson said: "We have tried as far as possible to make the council run efficiently. Our biggest cost is staffing, and those who have remained have effectively had a pay cut when you take inflation into account."

Walsall Council paid £5,947,094 to 624 staff who left the authority. One departing staff member was paid £83,665 in 2011/12.

Award for 'guardian angel' midwife

Midwife of the Year Claire South, left, and Archie with his mother Lucy Goodway, from Halesowen

A DEDICATED midwife in Dudley has won a top award for being a 'guardian angel'.

Claire South, who has worked for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust for 11 years, has been named Midwife of the Year for the Midlands and East region.

The 33-year-old was nominated by Lucy Goodway who was helped by Claire through both heartache and joy during two pregnancies.

Claire won the Emma's Diary Mums' Midwife of the Year 2016 prize, part of the Royal College of Midwives' Midwifery Awards.

At 37 weeks in July 2014, Claire sadly discovered Lucy's baby had no heartbeat. Two days later Lucy, from Halesowen, delivered a baby boy, Jack William Goodway.

Claire remained by 35-year-old Lucy's side in the days after the stillbirth to remember baby Jack and support her family through their grief.

Seven weeks later Lucy discovered she was pregnant again but was terrified. It was Claire's support that got her through the pregnancy and in June 2015, Lucy gave birth to a baby boy who she named Archie Jack Goodway, after his brother. She also has a daughter, Nell, who is three and a half.

Lucy said: "Claire has been my guardian angel twice. When I lost my beautiful little boy at 37 weeks, she was there for me every single day – holding my hand, always knowing what to say, and giving me hope for the future. And then she was there for me again a few months later. I was a nervous wreck but she was so kind, calm and supported me every step of the way.

"I am now lucky enough to call her my friend."

Dudley MP's riot reforms get support in Commons

REFORMS to 19th century riot laws aiming to give victims a 'fair deal' has been introduced in a Bill by Dudley South MP Mike Wood, which has now cleared the House of Commons.

MPs backed introducing a £1 million cap on claims for riot damage and giving victims at least 132 days to make a claim and provide evidence as part of a better organised compensation system.

Other changes to the 1886 laws include allowing items damaged in a riot to be replaced on a 'new for old' basis. Uninsured individuals and families made temporarily homeless by a riot may also be able to claim costs such as rent for an alternative property or 'reasonable' hotel bills while repairs are carried out, Home Office minister James Brokenshire added.

Moves for reform emerged following frustrations that existing laws were archaic and let down those who suffered as a result of the 2011 summer riots, most notably in London.

Conservative MP Mr Wood said he hopes his Riot Compensation Bill, which will undergo further scrutiny in the Lords, will never have to be used.

He told the Commons: "The current 130-year-old legislation is unsurprisingly out-dated and inadequate. It's unclear in what circumstances claims can be made."

He added: "We all hope and pray that there will not be future riots of the kind, and certainly the scale, we saw in August 2011. Hoping for the best can never become an alternative to preparing for the worst."

Tenants get help to deal with debt

A PROJECT run in Dudley has helped tenants deal with debt and retain their tenancies.

The project,the result of a partnership between Dudley Council and Dudley Citizens Advice, has helped housing tenants with problems ranging from unemployment and reductions in benefit payments, to being unable to afford repayments on loans. Last year, more than 260 tenants were referred to the service.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "It is really important tenants pay their housing rent as it is a priority debt, which means that non payment could lead to eviction. This partnership project aims to help anyone who is worried about losing their home due to financial problems." Call (01384) 811689.

Soul night is being held in civic centre

AN EVENING of soul music is being held at Wombourne Civic Centre.

DJs Dave Thomas and Mick Stevens will be playing Motown, Stax and northern soul favourites on April 9 from 8pm to midnight. Advance tickets on 01902 664121.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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UKIP only paid for hire of hall after legal threat

DUDLEY Council threatened UKIP with legal action when the cash-strapped party failed to pay a bill of less than £500 to hire Himley Hall for a meeting last year.

The party hosted a defence policy meeting at the Dudley Council-owned venue, which was attended by UKIP leader Nigel Farage.

But Dudley Council did not receive payment until six months later, following numerous phone calls, emails and two letters from the authority's debt collection agency.

The £495.85 bill was finally settled in October last year when UKIP's West Midlands MEP James Carver stepped in to settle the bill.

It comes as it emerged that the party had struggled to raise funds since last year's General Election as donors instead spent their money on anti-European Union campaigns. UKIP has put the delay in paying the bill down to administrative errors.

Bill Etheridge, a West Midlands UKIP MEP and councillor for Sedgley, said: "It was just a case of finding the right person in the party to pay it.

They asked me to pay it several times but I said no as it was down to head office. We are only talking about a few hundred quid. It had nothing to do with us being on our uppers."

UKIP spent £2.85 million on fighting last year's General Election but has struggled to raise funds since.

Mr Farage is set to appear at Wolverhampton's Dunstall Park on Saturday to deliver a talk on Britain leaving the EU.

Under-5s day to be bigger and better

STALLHOLDERS are encouraged to show their support at an annual children's day at Himley Hall and Park.

The Under-5s Day is promising to be bigger and better than ever and will include entertainment specifically designed for children under five.

Last year's event saw record numbers in attendance, with figures reaching almost 4,000 visitors throughout the day.

Stallholders are encouraged to apply early if they would like a trade stand at the event on June 24 from 10am to 3pm. Entertainment will include the return of the famous Himley Beach and much more.

To apply for a stall email himley.hall@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 817817 for information.

Free admission for organ recital

MUSIC fans are invited to an organ recital at a Stourbridge church on March 6. Paul Carr will be performing at Holy Trinity Parish Church in Wordsley. Admission to the 3pm recital is free.

Man died after hitting head in fall

A MAN who refused to go to hospital after bumping his head during a fall at his home died as a result of an accident, a coroner has ruled.

Donald Peverell, aged 77, of Woods Crescent, Brierley Hill, who had a history of falls, died at Russells Hall Hospital on November 26, 2015. He had bumped his head in a fall on the landing of his home in August last year.

Mr Peverell, who had type two diabetes, had recently undergone a hip replacement. Though the operation was a success, he continued to have mobility issues.

His wife Sheila Peverell, who was at the inquest at Smethwick council house, was on holiday at the time of the fall. She had arranged for carers to visit her husband, as well as meals on wheels, her daughter Deborah Stanley and Mr Peverell's three sons.

Following the fall, Mr Peverell refused to go to hospital and his demeanour had been normal according to Mrs Stanley, his stepdaughter.

"He was very stubborn," Mrs Stanley said. "He had a visible bump on the left side of his head and some bruising, but he refused to get it checked out and otherwise seemed fine."

Mr Peverell was admitted to the Dudley hospital on September 14 suffering with a blood clot in his brain. He was transferred to the critical care unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, a day later. Whilst at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he was moved to the neurological unit then back to the critical care unit in the space of 48 hours. His condition stabilised and he was moved back to Russells Hall on November 20.

He died shortly after he underwent an operation to reduce the size of his tracheotomy tube.

A report by Dr Steve Sturman, consultant neurologist at the QE, revealed that Mr Peverell had injuries to his spinal cord as a result of his falls.

The inquest heard he died from pneumonia, type two diabetes and tiny blood clots in his lungs.

Senior coroner for the Black Country Zafar Siddique said: "If it wasn't for the fall, Mr Peverell would not have been in this position at hospital. I therefore record a conclusion of accidental death."

91 motorists caught speeding in one hour

ALMOST 100 motorists were caught speeding in just one hour as part of a campaign launched by residents in Brierley Hill.

Caledonia Residents Association launched their own speed campaign in a bid to crackdown on speeding and also encourage motorists to slow down.

Using a radar speed gun, members of the group recorded the speed of 110 passing vehicles on Caledonia.

A total of 91 out of 110 vehicles were travelling over 30mph, with 78 of those driving between 30 to 40mph, 12 between 40 to 50mph and one over 50mph, when the test was conducted between 10am and 11am on Saturday, January 30.

Just 19 vehicles were driving within the speed limit of 30mph. The average speed of all vehicles recorded was 35.23mph, with one vehicle travelling at 52mph.

Details of all vehicles recorded as having exceeded the 30mph speed limit have been passed to the police, with a request that those exceeding 40mph are sent a warning letter.

Encourage

Chairman of the Caledonia Residents Association, David Adams said: "The objective of the campaign is to both encourage motorists to slow down by a physical presence on Caledonia, as well as recording the speeds of those who were exceeding the speed limit for the police to issue warning letters.

"What sparked us into taking action was a near tragic accident which happened on the road last year. "We spoke to residents who were deeply concerned by how fast cars were driving past and this accident was just one of several that happened.

"Further speed awareness campaigns are planned for the near future, with details of motorists exceeding the speed limit also being passed to the police."

Deputy Mayor for Dudley Councillor Mo Hanif attended the crackdown and is fully supportive of the Caledonia Residents Association campaign. He said: "I think it's fantastic what the association is doing. Something like this has been needed for a very long time.

"Speeding on Caledonia Road and surrounding roads has been a big problem which has worried nearby residents for many years. The peoplehave done a great job organising the campaign and this is just the start of many."

Call over future of historic library

Councillors Elaine Taylor, Qadar Zada and Chrstine Perks who have launched the Woodside Library campaign

CAMPAIGNERS are calling for the future of an historic former library in Dudley to be secured.

The much-lived Woodside Library links back to the Earls of Dudley but is now boarded up after being targeted by vandals.

Campaigners are trying to persuade officials to relocate the 19th century landmark to the Black Country Living Museum.

The building in Stourbridge Road, Woodside, has been empty and boarded up since it was closed in 2008 under council cost-cutting measures.

Residents have contacted councillors urging action saying the building is an 'eyesore' to nearby homes and is attracting litter.

Chairman of Holly Hall and Woodside Tenants and Residents Association, Colin Day, aged 71, said: "It has become an eyesore and scaffolding has been left up around it for too long." Previously, plans to transform the old library into homes failed to get off the ground as it emerged the Earl of Dudley put a protective covenant on the site saying it could only be used for a 'public purpose'.

The building was opened in July 1894 after the 2nd Earl of Dudley donated around £2,900 towards works.

Ward councillors Elaine Taylor, Qadar Zada and Christine Perks have joined the campaign.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to talk on high-rise blocks

RESIDENTS living in Dudley's high-rise flats are invited to discuss issues relating to their estates at a meeting.

Dudley Council is encouraging its tenants and leaseholders to become involved in the running of their blocks. A special group, the High Rise Living Forum, meets on a regular basis, discussing issues relating to living within a high-ris.

The next meeting will be at Saltwells Education Centre, Netherton, on February 23 from 7pm to 8.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm. Call (01384) 815168.

Donations to fund group's new hut

A POPULAR woodcraft group that was targeted by arsonists has received more than £12,000 in donations to help it get back on its feet.

Arsonists torched the hut of High Acres Woodcraft Folk group in December. The group has operated in Kinver for 48 years. Now donations have flooded in to help build a new hut.

A work party is set to begin rebuilding it at the end of May, which has been organised by group leader Bob Sandall.

Donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/woodcraftfolk

Clean water boost thanks to Rotary

CLEAN water is now flowing into a village in Uganda thanks to the fundraising efforts of Kinver Rotary Club.

Members donated half of the £7,000 needed to construct a bore hole which is delivering clean water to the village of Kititi.

Following additional donations from Bewdley Rotary Club and a grant from the clubs' district body the project was completed by engineers and officially inaugurated by the country's vice president, Edward Ssekadw.

Classical concert in aid of church funds

MORE than 100 musicians will be performing in a classical music concert that is being held in a Stourbridge town centre church next month to help its fundraising.

The Restoration Chorus and Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra will be performing Brahms' Requiem and works by Vaughan Williams at St John's United Reformed Church, off St John's Road, on March 12 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10, available at Harris & Son Butchers, High Street, Wollaston.

Nutrition at library

A FOOD and nutrition drop-in session is being held at Kingswinford Library tomorrow (Friday) between 10.30-11.30am. Also at the library in Market Street, today at 10.30am is the chance for five to 12-year-olds to make friendship bracelets. Call (01384) 816491 for more information.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Silence is golden as day centre is suffering

NOBODY who has followed the fortunes of Wolverhampton Council for the past few years can be unaware of the massive cuts to services the authority has been imposing.

Looking at the bigger picture, £146 million worth of savings over the next three years seems hard to comprehend. But it is the smaller stuff which really makes a difference. Take, for example, the Columba Day Centre which cares for people suffering from dementia. It used to be funded by the council, but now faces possible closure unless £150,000 can be raised.

It is in this context that we learn Wolverhampton Council has spent nearly £8m of public money over the last five years buying the silence of departing staff.

Yes, that's right. Since 2011/2, the cash-strapped council has spent almost £8m on ensuring people do not talk publicly about their work or the reasons why they have left.

In the past eight months alone, while the authority has been busy warning us about draconian cuts it has spent £1.8m on clauses to keep people quiet.

What beans they thought their former staff were going to spill, we will probably never know. But one can only assume that some of it was not going to be entirely positive.

Perhaps £8m does not seem a great amount of money to an organisation handling hundreds of millions of pounds, but it would keep the Columba Day Centre, and dozens of other small local services, running for a good few years. Silence is golden, so the saying goes. And very expensive, by the sound of things.

❒❒❒

NEARLY 50,000 people have signed a petition calling for the north of England, from Liverpool, Sheffield and Hull upwards, to join with Scotland in a new independent state.

Actually, I use the term petition loosely.

It is another one of these Change.org online campaigns, where busybody activists spend their days furiously tapping away at their computer screens believing they can change the world through a website.

Still it raises an interesting question about how relevant the values of Westminster are to the rest of the UK, although I fear they have missed the point slightly.

There is not so much a north-south divide in modern Britain, but a chasm between London and the rest of Britain. The answer is surely not for the north of England to join with Scotland, but for London o be declared an independent principality like Monaco.

Let them worry about tofu, diversity and cycle lanes, and the rest of us will create a new capital city for the rest of Britain. Somewhere central. In the Black Country maybe?

A Kodak Brownie camera with parts from camera flash

Another one of Paul's many unique clocks

Paul Parry from Coven who makes unique clocks

Clocking on for some stunning timepieces

Paul Parry's spare time hobby is going places and has caught the attention of a Dragon Den's star, as JOE EDWARDS reports

TAKE a little time to take in these stunning timepieces.

They take months to produce and sell for thousands of pounds and are just some of the hundreds of stunning clocks made by Paul Parry in his spare time.

Mr Parry uses both upcycled electronics and new materials to make the clocks on evenings and weekends, from the spare bedroom of his home in Coven, near Wolverhampton.

The 43-year-old set up Bad Dog Designs with partner Karen in April 2014, and the business has taken flight with customers around the world looking to get their hands on a truly individual, unique design.

Rewards

Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis recently spotted Bad Dog Designs through his weekly Small Business Sunday initiative on Twitter, where he rewards entrepreneurs who send him a quick description of their business.

Paul recently showcased some of his designs at Liberty's department store in London and is due to meet Mr Paphitis at a Small Business Sunday convention at The ICC, Birmingham tomorrow.

With prices starting at around £300, Paul, who works in management for a systems maintenance infrastructure company, has been commissioned to produce a robot clock, using brass and stainless steel, for a hotel in Singapore which he will sell for £7,000, his biggest sale to date.

"The robot clock is on commission for £7,000 and is going to a boutique hotel in Singapore which is being built as we speak," said Paul.

"It will stand in the foyer and will be the first thing people see when they walk in."

Paul says he has now made around 200 different clocks during his spare time, all of which are signed by himself.

These include the Watson, which was originally a 1938 watt meter, the Captain Nemo MK II, made from an old music box casing from the 1850s, and the Marconi MK II, styled to look like an old valve radio or amplifier.

Design taken from Turing's Bombe used to decode Enigma Machine messages

"I only do evenings and weekends, some commissions can take around four to five months to complete. The robot clock will take 18-months," he added.

"The quickest I've ever done one is in two or three evenings but that was a small, simple clock. "The cost is a reflection of the time and effort that goes into every clock.

"Every one is different, everybody wants something unique to them. Hopefully somebody will come along some day and commission me to do a clock that is worth £20,000. When people see the clocks, they will ask 'what is that?' Then the second question will be 'where can I get one from?'"

Nixie tubes, which are used to display the time on Paul's steampunk clocks, were hugely popular in the 1950s and 60s and used in gadgets of the time, from petrol pumps to military equipment.

The last were made in Ukraine and Russia in the early 1990s, but Paul scours the internet for old tubes, which have a distinctive orange glow and each digit stacked behind the other within the tube. Small ones cost around £6 each, medium-sized ones approximately £30 and large ones can be bought for as much as £200.

"They are not economically viable for companies to produce, it's very much an old technology. Its a niche market," said Paul.

Every clock is handmade with recycled equipment and original vintage items, but modern microprocessor technology is used to power the old tubes. Most are named after famous scientists and electrical engineers, such as Michael Faraday, Nikola Tesla and Guglielmo Marconi.

People from all over the globe have bought a clock made by Paul, who remarkably doesn't own one himself.

"They're named after 17th and 18th century scientists – Faraday, Tesla, Gordon – mainly so I know which one is which," he added.

Celebrating

"I've done clocks celebrating birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and even as Christmas gifts. The enquires I get are from all over the place.

"When people see the clocks, they really do sell themselves. Around 30 to 40 per cent of my customers are repeat customers, which has surprised me.

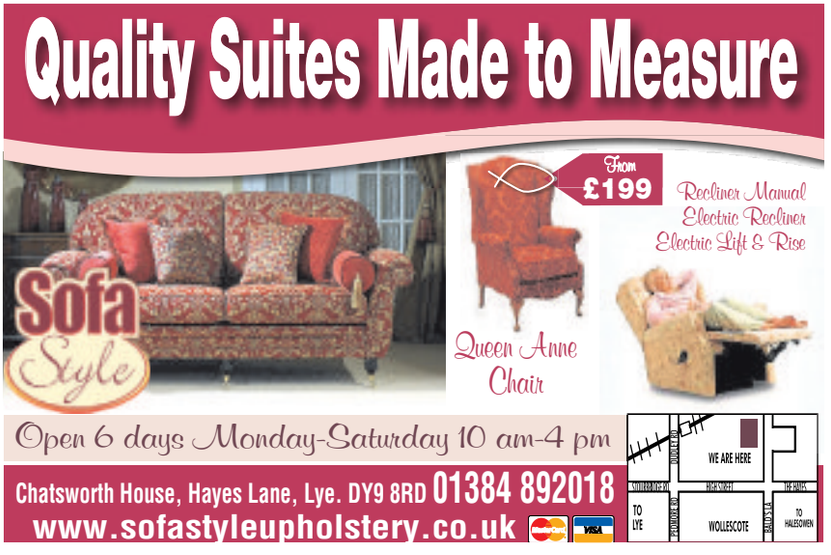
"One guy from the United States has bought five off me. I've had people from the States and Singapore come over here to pick up their clocks.

"Sometimes when they are going out to China and Singapore, I'll use a shipping company but a lot do come over to pick them up and see how it all works.

"The business funds itself, a sale of a clock funds the parts for the next one.

"I love building the clocks, I find it relaxing. I have to sell them though, otherwise I'd just have a house full of them. I don't actually own one, but one of these days I will actually own a clock that I have made myself."

To see the full range of remarkable clocks which Paul has produced, visit www.bad-dog-designs.co.uk



Our libraries are a source of inspiration

OVER recent years we have all seen a considerable cut on funding for public services. One that really concerns me the most is our libraries.

A large number of libraries have already been closed by the Government's spending cuts. I feel closure of libraries has a huge impact on society.

It is easy to understand the decline of people visiting libraries due to the increase in internet usage on mobile phones and tablets, and not realising the importance of having a library within the community, especially for the young and elderly.

These days school children will type in their question on Google and will be supplied a list of various links with the answer. Ok, I agree it saves time, but this also limits the child in using their own intelligence to investigate and takes the fun out of research.

Many of today's children have never set foot in a library. This is restricting their knowledge on how and where to look for research, many having no idea how to look for items alphabetically or how to use an index.

The library is also just as important for the elderly. A place to engage within the community. For some, a sanctuary within warm surroundings.

To lose a library would have a huge impact on all generations. Not only that but if libraries are run by volunteers (one of the proposals in cutting costs) there is the risk of losing professional expertise and the data protection that librarians have to adhere to.

As a child I attended the library every weekend. Seeing shelves full of books was to me Aladdin's Cave! Books have inspired me so much.

Let the children be inspired by the magic in books – there is much more than just tapping into the internet!

FATIMA (FULL NAME SUPPLIED)
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Call for dog free areas in all parks

ALL parks should have dog free areas.

So well done to Dudley Council in having the forethought to make a dog free zone at Himley Hall Park

This should apply to all parks in the borough.

A park is for the use of everyone and not just the dog walkers, who should have a segregated dog zone of their own.

This would keep the rest of the parks free from rampaging dogs defecating and urinating all over the place.

My local park is Wollescote Park, which is a lovely park containing many flower beds, children's play area, tennis courts and bowling greens.

It annoys me when these facilities are invaded by roaming dogs whose owners cannot be bothered to control them and/or pick up their animal's waste.

Let's have more dog free area in all our parks.

A THOMAS
Stourbridge

Can I negotiate my tax rate now please?

GEORGE Osborne announced that he had managed to get a concession from Google to pay their corporation tax at a rate of two and a half per cent. As a tax-payer and a pensioner I would like to negotiate the same terms please.

Ordinary people like us have to pay what the tax man demands. Why the difference? It is because Google and many like them stash their money away in tax havens, so that the Inland Revenue can't get access to it. Apparently, this is called tax avoidance which is somehow different from tax evasion, even though it is tantamount to the same thing.

One can only assume it is legal because it is another avenue allowing the ruling classes to get richer whilst the poor get poorer.

Osborne claims that the Google deal is the best he can do. If I had stashed billions in taxes in my cousin's house in Australia, I'll bet HMRC would soon seize all my assets. This is what we should do with those greedy multi-nationals. HMRC should seize their tangible UK assets up to the value of their tax debts. You can bet they would pay their taxes then. We should pass a law that paying the correct tax is a pre-condition of allowing them to trade in the UK.

M CLIFF
Dudley

Disgust at domination of football

I WONDER how many readers recall the names of Sean Kerly – who was a member of the British hockey team that won gold at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 – and of Jane Sixsmith, a member of the ladies' team which brought back bronze from Barcelona in 1992?

At the time, these young people were quite rightly lauded for the honour they brought to Britain. People have short memories.

I am not particularly a hockey fan. I have seldom watched a game but I must express my disgust at the shameful decision of Dudley Council to turn out two-long established hockey clubs from the Dell Stadium in order to lay a £500,000 synthetic pitch which it hopes will encourage budding footballers. What about encouraging young hockey players?

Yet again we have the interests of a minority sport being cynically sacrificed on the altar of the great god Football. Disgraceful.

B WILLIAMS
Wordsley

WORKING TOGETHER

Now in its second year, the Working Together project is inviting organisations to learn from the first year and to find out more about the funding opportunities available for year two.

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Tears and anger at showdown over school

'YOU don't give a damn about the kids or this school'.

That was just one of many emotive lines in a heated meeting which discussed the fate of an under-threat school in Dudley.

Around 80 parents, pupils and staff attended the public meeting, held at the school, where some were reduced to tears. Others voiced their anger and concerns following the consultation launched by Dudley Council, which could see the closure of Coseley School.

On Thursday questions were fired at a panel including cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Ian Cooper; education services chief Deann Fishburn; and council advisor on secondary schools, Grenville Earney.

Maggie Hubbard, who has a daughter in Year 11, said: "It is absolutely disgusting. Not once have they turned around and thought about the impact all of this is having on the children.

Worried

"My daughter is worried sick, even though we all know the decision to close it has already probably be made.

"They are not worried at all about the future of our children's education. They don't give a damn about the kids or this school."

Sue Haywood, who works in the school's dinner hall, broke down in tears saying said she was 'frightened and worried' the school would close.

When asked what will happen to pupils if the school was to close, the board said there would be a formal admissions process for parents to fill out for school preferences – but schools might be automatically selected for pupils if all choices are filled.

Michaela Garbett, of Roseville, who has a daughter in Year 8, said: "We've had no answers, no information, we're all so worried about our kids' futures.

Martin Duffield, a teacher at the school for 30 years, voiced his concern

Councillor Ian Cooper, Deann Fishburn and Grenville Earney listened to views

They continue to talk about it failing but projected grades for this year are more than good. The kids should be given a chance to complete their exams without any of this stress."

Councillor Cooper said: "Any decision we take is for the benefit of the pupils and it's been an ongoing issue for the last four years. It is with a heavy heart I have to discuss such an issue, and not one I take lightly."

Retired RE teacher Martin Duffield said: "The people of Coseley deserve better and deserve answers, but they are not getting them."

School governor Sue Ridney said: "The children are the most important people to think about in all of this. I'm extremely proud of them and will fight to save Coseley School."

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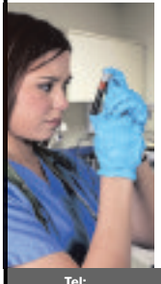

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Mother, 70, wakes up from a 16-day coma

Jeanette Powell before she was struck down by encephalitis, which left her in a coma for 16 days

A PENSIONER who was struck down by a devastating brain disease which put her in a coma for 16 days has regained conciousness.

Her family were delighted that she is awoke but recognise that she has a long road to recovery ahead.

Jeanette Powell, aged 70, enjoyed an active lifestyle before she was hit with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, last October. It almost claimed her life.

Rehabilitation for Mrs Powell, aged 70, of Wall Heath, will be lengthy and she faces a future of constant care.

Lisa Slater, her daughter, said: "My mum, a fit and healthy 70-year-old, felt unwell with flu-like symptoms. She began hallucinating and was admitted to hospital.

"Within 48 hours she was in critical care, in a coma, on a life support machine.

"As a family, we prepared for the worst. However, 16 days later, mom woke up and opened her eyes, to the amazement of the medical staff. As a family have a long road ahead of us, our lives have changed for ever."

Mrs Powell, who used to run Wall Heath Community Centre, has now been moved to West Park Rehabilitation Hospital, and will remain there for many months.

World Encephalitis Day is on February 22, and Mrs Powell's family hope that sharing her story will raise awareness. See www.worldencephalitisday.org website.

Show-off driver left hurt pal in wreckage

A 21-YEAR-OLD driver left an injured friend trapped in the wreckage of a car after crashing at high speed while 'showing off' four days after passing his test, a judge heard.

Liam Ward was unconscious and hanging upside down in the overturned Peugeot 307 when Luke Shelley fled from the scene, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The victim – a front seat passenger who had earlier warned the driver to slow down – had to be cut free from the twisted metal by fire crews.

He woke up in hospital with fractures to his nose and jaw together with damage to his teeth following the smash in Broad Lanes, Bilston.

Shelley, aged 21, lost control while overtaking a van on a bend at around 70mph – over twice the speed limit – shortly before 1am on April 13 last year, said Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting.

Shelley climbed out of the wreckage, ran off and did not give himself up to police until around 10 hours later.

He had picked up Mr Ward after seeing him walking in Sedgley and drove him to a McDonald's.

by David Banner

Mr Walters said: "The defendant had been speeding on the way and had been told to slow down by Mr Ward."

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending, said: "It was a ridiculous piece of driving. He could have killed Mr Ward. The defendant was in shock and scared. They were friends but not any more."

Shelley, formerly of Mount Road, Lanesfield, is currently behind bars for an unrelated wounding offence.

He pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to stop after an accident. He was jailed for two years six months with the sentence starting after his current detention is completed. He was also banned from driving for four and a half years.

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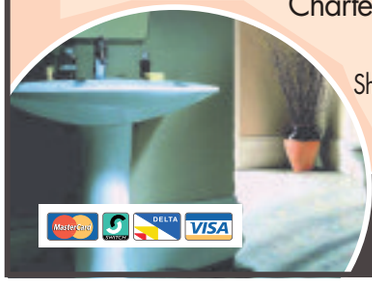

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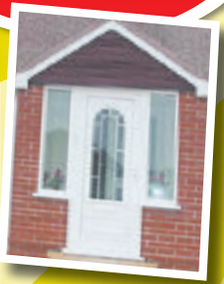

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Medal won by heroic soldier sells for £48k

A MEDAL won by an heroic soldier who fought against Zulu warriors in a bloody conflict and is buried in Bilston has been sold at a Stourbridge auction for nearly £50,000.

The medal of 1524 Private Joseph Bromwich 2-24th Foot, who fought in the Ango-Zulu War, was sold to a Midlands private collector for £48,980.

It was inherited by a Black Country couple through their family, who had no idea of its value.

Around 150 British and colonial soldiers defended a mission station in the Battle of Roke's Drift in South Africa. The fight lasted for 12 hours and was against a Zulu force of thousands.

It proved the inspiration for the 1964 blockbuster movie Zulu, starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker.

Brother

Private Bromwich, who is buried in Bilston, served in the battle, aged just 22, alongside his elder brother Charles.

The medal was originally estimated to be sold for around £20,000 at Fieldings Auctioneers but went for more than twice as much.

Private Bromwich was discharged from the Army in 1882, suffering from hepatitis, and settled with Bilston-born wife Betsy, in Aston, opening a boot and shoe repairing shop.

Eventually moving to the Black Country and continuing to work as a boot and shoe repairer.

His wife died in 1914 and the following year, he was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue. He died on the February 25 1916, aged just 60, and is buried in an unmarked grave in a Bilston Cemetery.

Auction director Nick Davies with the rare medal that came up for sale

Junior doctors on picket line

JUNIOR doctors were on a picket line outside Russells Hall Hospital last week during a second national one-day strike in the space of a month.

A group of around 20 junior doctors gathered with placards, banners and posters for the 24-hour walkout on February 10 as part of the ongoing dispute over new contracts.

The major sticking point in the dispute is over weekend pay and whether Saturday should be largely classed as a normal working day.

Registrar Hafiz Aladin, 32, joined his co-workers on the picket line. He said: "The change of contract is ludicrous and it's almost a fallacy to think the NHS can survive if this is implemented. We have been overwhelmed with public support we've received. "

At the hospital, 182 outpatient appointments, four day-case procedures and two inpatient operations had to be rescheduled.

No-one from hospital management was available to comment.

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Romantic novel listed for award

AN author from Halesowen has been shortlisted in a national novel competition.

Janice Preston has made it to the final stages of the 2016 Romantic Novel Awards, RoNAs.

If she wins the RoNA Rose Novel category Janice will go forward to contest the Goldsboro Books Romantic Novel of the Year 2016.

Janice is one of five finalists in the category, for shorter and category romance novels and was shortlisted for her book, From Wallflower to Countess, a Regency romance which challenges the hero and heroine's preconceptions of a marriage of convenience.

Janice said: "I'm so thrilled and proud to be shortlisted for the RoNA Rose and, whatever the result, I feel like a winner already."

Not a penny! Black Country misses out on £300m boost

LOCAL government will receive £300 million to ease funding cuts to central government grants – but cash-strapped local authorities in the Black Country won't get a penny.

Communities secretary Greg Clark has announced a £150m support scheme for councils in each of the next two years in response to concerns over changes to funding calculations.

None of the four local authorities in the Black Country will receive any of the transitional money – sparking fury among council bosses.

Meanwhile, Tory-run Staffordshire County Council will receive additional funding of £5.56m over two years.

The announcement came after the conclusion of the consultation on the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement.

Critics say the new relief fund will overwhelmingly help Conservative areas, including the Prime Minister's own Oxfordshire council which is set to get £9m over two years.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said the authority would remain saddled with the largest cuts to funding in its history.

"This is another example of decision-making by a government to benefit its own party," he said.

"All we ask for is a fair deal, but we're not getting that."

Wolverhampton council's finance chief, Councillor Andrew Johnson, said the settlement 're-emphasised the unfairness' of how the grant was calculated.

"It is outrageous," he said. "Richer areas in the South East, mainly Tory councils I might add, have had less cuts yet some of them are getting extra money. It just adds insult to injury."

Head injuries killed mother

A MOTHER-OF-TWO from Netherton died after suffering blunt force head injuries, an inquest heard.

Jacqueline Abbott, aged 54, of Lodge Crescent, died of 'extensive and severe head injuries' on December 11 last year, the inquest at Smethwick Council House was told last week.

She was pronounced dead at the scene and her body was formally identified by her son Martyn. Mr Zafar Siddique, lead coroner for the Black Country, suspended the inquest subject to the outcome of ongoing criminal proceedings.

Mrs Abbott's husband Paul, 56, has been charged with murder and will appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 7 for a plea and case management hearing.

Cone is where the art is

Gill Smith, Pauline Carroll and Ena Baker with work at the exhibition at Red House Glass Cone

A STUNNING selection of paintings are on show at an art exhibition in Wordsley.

The Brierley Hill Society of Artists' display at the Red House Glass Cone features more than 75 original pieces of artwork, plus many unframed prints using watercolours, mixed media and acrylic.

Visitors can see a wide variety of work, covering local scenes including the Cone itself, plus Himley Hall, Shropshire towns and places abroad.

Other topics include animals, flowers, landscapes and even a cartoon of politician and TV presenter Michael Portillo during his visit to the Red House Glass Cone.

Pauline Carroll, the secretary of the society, said this year's exhibition was one of the best yet.

Mrs Carroll said: "It's going quite well, we've sold quite a few framed and unframed prints now. There have been a great number of people come to see us and everyone has made good comments about it.

"I think it's a brilliant space to have an exhibition and this year has been really good.

"It seems to improve every year and the quality of the paintings this year is excellent."

Mrs Carroll said exhibition included works by Gill Smith, John Moorfinch and Steve Millward, among others.

Mr Millward sold the most expensive piece so far – for £210. All of the artists' work on display is for sale and prices start at £15.

For more information about the exhibition and other events at the historic venue, go to the website www.redhouseglasscone.co.uk

Workers get £5m in blacklist battle

BUILDING workers who were among hundreds fighting a legal battle over being 'blacklisted' by employers – including Carillion and Balfour Beatty – have won an initial payout worth more than £5 million.

In total 71 former carpenters and bricklayers who are members of the UCATT construction union have won payouts averaging £80,000 each – with some worth around £200,000. The total payout is worth £5.6m.

The union is still negotiating 89 cases for compensation. If a settlement is not agreed those cases will go to trial at the High Court. Other cases, involving hundreds of workers backed by unions Unite and GMB, and the Blacklist Support Group, are also pending.

The unions claim that an industry blacklist of 3,213 workers was used by 44 companies to vet new recruits, and block union and health and safety activists.

The companies issued a joint apology in October 2013.

Easter egg donations

A CHARTERED accountancy firm is urging people in Halesowen to donate Easter eggs to help less fortunate children.

In collaboration with Dudley Council for Voluntary Services and Birmingham Children's Society, Nicklins are collecting eggs to donate to youngsters that would otherwise go without.

To donate an egg, take it to the offices of Nicklin LLP at Church Court, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, B63 3TT before close of business on March 10.

Councillor says town is thriving

DUDLEY is thriving again as new businesses continue to start up, says the borough council's regeneration boss.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed believes the town has finally recovered from the recession and is moving towards a brighter future after 14 new businesses opened during the last six months.

He was confident of similar success in 2016.

"This influx of new businesses to Dudley town centre is a fantastic start for 2016," he said.

"Dudley is pushing its way through and is doing much better."

Councillor Ahmed said millions of pounds of improvements in the town centre, like the revamp of the market place, had made Dudley a more attractive place to visit and to do business in.

Gala night bid backed

CAMPAIGNERS aiming to save Dudley Hippodrome have been urged to press ahead with a fundraising show featuring comedy veteran Ken Dodd.

Sedgley councillor and Euro MP Bill Etheridge says it is time to press ahead, following the entertainer's promise to help save the venue.

"A gala night such as this would provide a boost, giving them some working capital before the grants roll in," said the MEP.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Council get back mosque site as new search begins

THE site of a proposed mosque in Dudley that sparked a decade-long battle is finally back in the hands of the borough council.

Dudley Council confirmed its deal to buy back the Hall Street site from the Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) had been completed – a move that draws a line under a long and bitter row.

Leaders from the DMA say they will now find a new site for a mosque that they say is still desperately needed in Dudley.

By Richard Guttridge

Cash-strapped Dudley Council paid £40,000 to the DMA in order to regain ownership of the land, which will now be put on the market.

Judges

The dispute was finally brought to an end in October when appeal judges ruled in favour of the council.

The amount owed by the council would have been much higher but the DMA was ordered to contribute £114,000 towards the council's legal costs.

A planning application to build a mosque on Hall Street was first submitted in 2003 with the sale of freehold for the land agreed two years later.

But the application was turned down by planning bosses and the ensuing battle put Dudley in the national spotlight, with far-right groups descending on the town to voice their anger over the mosque plans.

More than 80,000 people signed petitions against plans for the mosque. The authority spent more than £200,000 on legal costs battling the bid.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "The buy-back deal has now completed and we are just working on the formal legal paperwork process with the Land Registry before the land officially belongs to the council. We expect that to be complete in the next few weeks."

The DMA said it was now looking forward to entering into discussions with council chiefs about a new mosque site. Spokesman Amjid Raza also confirmed they would be looking for a central location, not far from the Central Mosque on Castle Hill.

Work continues on the outdoor theatre area at Coronation Gardens in Dudley town centre

Outdoor theatre is under way

AN outdoor theatre could open by spring in Dudley town centre as part of a £1 million revamp.

The amphitheatre is part of an overhaul of Coronation Gardens in Dudley, opposite Dudley College's Evolve campus and Dudley Council House

Regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said he was hopeful the attraction would be ready to host open-air shows in around six weeks.

He explained that the council were waiting for the weather to improve before putting the finishing touches to the project.

He said the facility would attract performers from all over the country and would also be used by Dudley College students.

He added: "We are waiting for the weather to calm down. Come March, once the grounds are cleared up we can start turfing and start to have events there."

Proposing to pop the question?

LADIES are being encouraged to pop the question to their partners at Dudley Zoo this leap year.

Staff have put together a special meet-and-greet package for February 29 by offering couples a close-encounter animal experience.

It is hoped that a bit of animal magic could encourage the ladies to get down on one knee and gents to say yes. The experience can happen with either giraffes, bats, lemurs, sea lions or tapirs to witness the romantic moment.

Andrea Hales, marketing manager, said: "It's a leap year which means it's traditional for the women to turn the tables and propose to their loved one on the 29th and where better than doing it among some of the world's rarest animals."

Packages start from £125 and include a bottle of bubbly and flowers. Contact 0844 474 2272.

Comedian adds extra town date

COMEDIAN Jimmy Carr has added a second Dudley date to his upcoming national tour after tickets sold out for his June show.

Tickets for the extra date added to his 'Best of, Ultimate, Greatest Hits' tour – on October 8 at Dudley Town Hall – went on sale on Friday.

The host of TV's Eight Out Of Ten Cats will be showcasing brand new material during the tour. His gig in Dudley on June 17 is completely sold out.

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Start date at last in sight for new community centre

A LONG-AWAITED community centre has moved a step closer with supporters hoping the first brick will be laid in April.

North Priory Community Centre has been awaited for eight years. The site on the Donkey Pool playing fields, Priory Road, has stood empty since the former community buildings were knocked down in 2007.

The plans, by Dudley Council, have now been submitted to the authority and reveal that the centre will feature a hall, kitchen, cafe, changing rooms, shower facilities and multi-use games area.

The scheme was initially set to cost £480,000 but council chiefs estimate a further £130,000 is needed. Ground works began on the site in November last year.

Councillor Ken Finch, for Castle and Priory ward, said: "I am over the moon that the wheels have been put in motion. We are not there yet but we cannot wait to see the first brick laid.

"The job has gone out to tender and we are positive that it will be well within budget.

"It will not only help the tenants and residents meetings but the two changing rooms will be most useful for the sports players."

An outside recreational area is intended to be funded by Sport England.

Councillor Finch added: "The residents have done a fantastic job at getting this all together. We are extremely positive that after all this time we are finally going to get what we wanted.

"It has been all these years in the making but the future is looking bright."

First glimpse – an artist's impression of how the long-awaited community centre at Donkey Pool will look

Birmingham flights to Qatar from March

NEW flights from Birmingham Airport to Doha in Qatar will be launched at the end of March.

Qatar Airways will begin a service to and from its new Hamad International Airport on March 30.

It marks the fourth UK airport that Qatar operates from and it will initially be offering eight flights a week from Birmingham using a Boeing 787 .

Senior vice president for Europe North and South West, Jon Harding, said that Qatar, which currently employs 150 on passenger services and 25 on its cargo team in the UK, was recruiting for a number of new posts based at the airport.

It will take the number of flights out of the UK each week to 73 with the other airports from which it operates being Heathrow, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Mr Harding said that the economic impact of starting flights between Edinburgh and Qatar had added £5 million to the Scottish economy.

"We expect to have a similar or even greater impact on the West Midlands economy," he added. "Birmingham is a market that we are keen to serve."

Thief put behind bars after £40k crime spree

A PROLIFIC thief who stole around £40,000 in a four-month crime spree in Dudley has been jailed.

Lorenzo Brown, aged 22, was described in court as a 'skilled thief' who had shown no remorse for his victims who were left out of pocket.

Among those he targeted were his neighbours whose mailboxes were raided for bank cards and other property.

Brown, of Ripley Grove, Dudley, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to five counts of theft, four of fraud and one of handling stolen goods.

Jailing him up for three years and four months, Judge Nicholas Webb said: "You are not only an opportunist thief but also a very skilful one. You show no remorse."

Brown was first arrested after stealing a high-performance Audi A4 worth around £30,000 from the Village Hotel in Dudley in October 2014. Brown managed to open a combination-style padlock before stealing a wedding ring, watch and the car keys from a locker.

He was granted police bail with officers unaware he had also been plundering the bank accounts of his neighbours.

Prolific thief Lorenzo Brown

Gym

One neighbour lost around £3,500 after Brown intercepted bank cards and PIN numbers for new accounts she had opened. He activated the accounts using his own details and then used the card to pay bills, buy takeaway meals and order furniture.

Other items taken from neighbours included bank statements, an investment portfolio and another bank card which Brown used to apply for a gym membership. He also stole his cousin's wallet, again using a bank card to pay bills and take out car hire agreements in his cousin's name.

Brown was convicted by a jury on two counts of theft and one of fraud.

Judge Webb said: "You had moved to a flat in Ripley Grove. There were honest, hardworking people there and unfortunately for them, you as well. Not letting an opportunity to steal go begging, you began to steal items of post from their letter boxes."

Those offences were committed while on bail for the theft of the locker items and the car.

"Overall you stole property to a value approaching £40,000," said the judge. "You were involved in the stealing of a wedding ring, watch and car keys from a padlocked locker in a fitness centre. It was a very sophisticated and skilful theft requiring both speed and nerve."

The court heard Brown had been studying for a degree until illness left him in hospital for five months. He was out of work, struggling financially and turned to crime.

Meet author at library

NOVELIST and short story writer Lisa Blower will be visiting Sedgley Library later this month. People are invited to bring a book they love or a book received from a loved one to the free event on Monday, February 29, at 2pm.

It is part of the month-long programme of Love your Libraries events in Dudley borough. The Stoke-on-Trent born author's debut novel Sitting Ducks is out next month.

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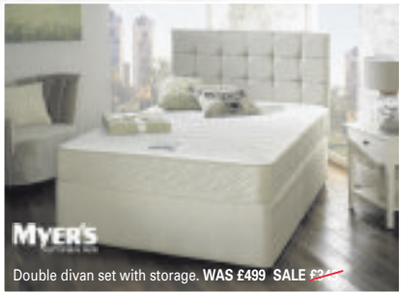

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Bourne to be wild in fairy ballet re-vampire

Sleeping Beauty, Birmingham Hippodrome

MATTHEW Bourne's thrilling reinvention of Sleeping Beauty takes only the bare bones of Pepita's classic 1890 ballet but keeps Tchaikovsky's marvellous music largely intact.

The Bourne ultimatum is to entertain, and he does so lavishly with a production that blends grand ballet techniques with modern dance, even a hint of breakdance, in his irreverent approach that makes a familiar fairy tale weird again.

He freely rewrites the story to have the baby Aurora attended by vampire fairies and the evil fairy Carabosse (no Maleficent here) have a wicked son Caradoc to lustily pursue the princess years later. He then explains her gamekeeper suitor's one hundred year wait by having him turned into a vampire too.

Being a Bourne production, it's a sexy concoction with lots of dark humour – from a curtain-climbing puppet baby to selfie-generation urban explorers who open the act after the '100 year interval' moves from 1911 to 'last night'.

The only minus with this show, which has been revived from two years ago, was that the music was recorded. Few touring companies can afford an orchestra.

But the dancers were dynamic, the costumes and sets a gothic fantasy made real and the whole experience wildly romantic – it's a Bourne winner.

Leon Burakowski

The Jersey Boys cast: Ferriday, Webb, Corner and Griffiths Photo: Helen Maybanks

Work your way back to this great pop musical

THEATRE REVIEWS

Jersey Boys, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

THEY may have started out as 'four guys under a street lamp singing someone else's songs' but The Four Seasons went on to become one of the biggest names in music.

And it was all down to Hollywood star Joe Pesci. Of course, he wasn't big in the movies back then, but it was he who introduced Bob Gaudio to rest of the band – and the rest, as they say, is history.

And, while musicals are made based on the music of Queen and Abba, this one is the real deal. A genuine compelling and often heartbreaking tale of the New Jersey pals who spawned such timeless classics as Sherry, Let's Hang On, Walk Like A Man and Rag Doll.

The show-stopping musical tells of their highs and lows, from their law-breaking early days and line-up and name changes to their rise to the top via personal crises, tragedies and break-ups. But the one consistent theme is music that still stands the test of time.

Despite looking like a cross between Ardal O'Hanlon and John Bishop, Matt Corner could not be more perfectly cast as Frankie Valli. He has a stunning range and one can see him putting all his effort into hitting those high notes. He will reprise the role in the West End from March 15 as the musical celebrates its eighth year in London, now at the Piccadilly Theatre.

The harmonies between all bandmates (Sam Ferriday as Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi and Stephen Webb as Tommy DeVito) were terrific, while the rest of the team could also not be faulted. They are one of music's most charismatic, enigmatic groups and theirs is a story that will never be tired of being told.

Oh What A Night? It certainly was. It runs at the Grand until Saturday.

Mark Shipp

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Gallery will host a clay play day

A 'CLAY play' day inspired by BBC 2's Great Pottery Throw Down is being hosted at Wolverhampton Art Gallery on Saturday.

Clay enthusiasts can have a go on a pottery wheel and watch demonstrations at the event. It will mark the launch of the art gallery's latest exhibition, Big Ceramics, which runs until May 28 and features the work of eight ceramicists who use clay to create objects large objects, including human-sized vases.

The event will feature ceramicist Gwen Heeney creating a work of art live in the gallery, while people will be able to have a go at throwing on the wheel with the help of 'flying potter' Jon Williams. Visitors can also model a funny face in clay or work with Penguin Pottery. The clay play day is free, apart from ceramic painting, which costs £5.

Time called on benefits fraud by woman working in a pub

A FORMER pub landlady who swindled the public purse out of £26,000 – claiming she couldn't wash and dress herself before being caught pulling pints – has been handed a suspended prison sentence.

Elaine Gordon was also seen loading her car with heavy stock while claiming state disability benefits.

The 59-year-old was filmed by the Department of Work and Pensions at the Prince of Wales pub in Tipton Road, Dudley, at the Riddins Tavern and at Makro wholesalers in Halesowen. At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week she was sentenced to eight months in prison, suspended for two years, and given a 12-month supervision order.

Dishonestly

She started dishonestly claiming in December 2009 when running The Boat Inn in Cradley Heath, and carried it on until 2014, when she was filmed pouring 50 pints in an hour during a televised World Cup match.

She claimed that she had Raynaud's Disease, arthritis and varicose veins, and needed care seven days a week to help with washing herself, cooking, dressing and going to the toilet.

Prosecutor Richard Davenport said: "She stated she was unable to work and virtually unable to walk. On September 17, 2014, she was interviewed, and accepted she wasn't entitled to what she was being paid."

Gordon, of Madehurst Road, Birmingham, had previously admitted failing to notify the authorities of a change in circumstances.

Defence barrister John Evans said: "Her medication played a big part in her improvement."

TV and movie legend in talk

DAME Joan Collins will be appearing in her own one-woman show at Birmingham Town Hall in the autumn.

Tickets have gone on sale for her Joan Collins Unscripted show in Birmingham on September 26 town hall date, via her website www.joancollins.com, or www.thsh.co.uk or by calling the box office on 0121 345 0600.

The 82-year-old film and TV star and author will be talking about her long career including her early days in Hollywood.

The former star of TV soap Dynasty will share stories and fans will be able to participate in a question-and-answer-session. Speaking about the tour she said: "Each performance will be different."

From the pews to punches

Mount Tabour Methodist Church, which had been empty for around a decade

A FORMER church is being brought back into use – as a boxing club, after the proposals were given the go-ahead by Dudley Council.

The Mount Tabor Methodist Church in Woodsetton will have a boxing ring installed on the ground floor with evening sessions taking place every night during weekdays.

The application for the change of use of the building in Swan Village will allow Brooklands Amateur Boxing Club to take on more young members.

The application for the church in Sedgley Road was supported by local councillors Keiran Casey and Adam Aston.

A report to planners also backed the move, stating: "The proposed use will have no detriment to established designated local centres and will provide a sustainable future use for a heritage asset that has no adverse impact upon local amenities or highway safety."

Councillor Casey added: "We have been working hard to support the club and the great work that they do within the community. We were very happy to support the application and I think the new building will be a great base for them in the local community, allowing them to build on the great work they are doing with local youngsters"

The club was opened in December 2011 by former Midlands and English middleweight champion Darren McDermot, of Dudley. After a training accident forced his retirement, the boxer opened the club, run from his home gym.

Mr McDermott said: "We are really pleased that we have been able to secure these new premises as we have had a waiting list for new members for some time."

Crime commissioner doubts school idea

HOME Secretary Theresa May's suggestion that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) should set up schools for troubled children has been questioned by the West Midlands commissioner, himself a former headteacher.

David Jamieson said he wasn't sure the move was 'best for children' after Mrs May said PCCs should bring together police reform and school reform and help steer children away from a life of crime. She unveiled proposals for more powers for PCCs, branching into youth justice, probation and court services in May.

But Mr Jamieson hinted he would be uncomfortable with the changes. He said: "Before becoming an MP and a PCC, I was a teacher and headteacher for more than 25 years. I am uncertain that PCCs running schools fits entirely within our brief or, more importantly, is the best thing for children. Schools should be run by teachers and education experts."

Students get goats

WORK has started to redevelop a courtyard at Halesowen College into a compound that will house rabbits, guinea pigs and new-born pygmy goats.

It will give students the chance to expand their husbandry skills in college, including hoof care, paddock maintenance and the handling of livestock.

Mark Dugmore, animal care unit manager at the college, said: "The students will be able to develop their skills further and get lots of valuable experience."

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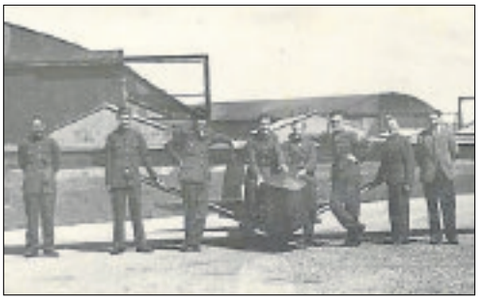
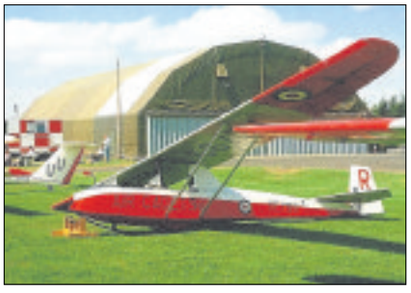
Walsall Squadron on a visit to RAF Lyneham during the 70s

Halesowen cadets show Air Commodore J Chamier a ground trainer


Wolverhampton cadets including Ray Simpson with their glider

Miles Messenger aircraft at Monmore Green ATC in 70s


AN ATC Slingsby T.31 glider at RAF Cosford

Air training corps that took off 75 years ago

THE Air Training Corps is celebrating 75 years. It began with the announcement in 1938 of the formation of the Air Defence Cadet Corps.

This would give 20,000 boys between the ages of 14 and 18 basic instruction in some of the things they would need to know to become airmen.

Air-minded youngsters flocked to join and on January 1, 1941, the Corps was taken over by the Air Ministry and renamed the Air Training Corps, with the motto Venture Adventure.

There were squadrons in almost every town. The boys learned drill with Lee-Enfield rifles, Morse Code, astro-navigation principles, aircraft recognition, and many squadrons had an old aircraft on which they could give airframe instruction.

Cadets went to local RAF stations to be given air experience flights.

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

For instance Vic Thwaites from Brewood who was in D Flight of 1047 Squadron had six flights during the War, in Wellingtons at RAF Hixon, Ansons at RAF Halfpenny Green and an Oxford at RAF Wheaton Aston.

He was also given 15 minutes instruction in a Link ground trainer, and early form of simulator, at RAF Perton.

Level

At an early stage it was decided that cadets should learn to fly, and the pre-war Slingsby Cadet was ordered in large numbers. Surprisingly this was single seat, and cadets learned at first to keep the wings level in a ground slide, then did low hops, then higher hops and finally a circuit.

The airspeed was controlled by the instructor at the controls of the winch.

Locally No.43 ATC Gliding School was established at Walsall Airport, and after the War moved to RAF Lichfield.

Ray Simpson of Fallings Park had a total of 48 instructions on a Cadet glider during 1948 at Lichfield, of which 15 were classed as 'slides', 15 as 'airborne slides', 9 as 'low hops' and 9 as 'high hops'.

Better sense prevailed after the War and two seat gliders were ordered for instruction, and local training centred on RAF Cosford.

The ATC still thrives today with both 1046 and 1047 Squadrons active in Wolverhampton, and other squadrons in Codsall, Sedgeley, Walsall and elsewhere.

The Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre is preparing an exhibition of the ATC's 75 Years, centred on three ATC gliders, and is appealing for the loan of photographs and memorabilia to help tell the full story.

Just pop in to the Centre any Sunday, or e.mail alecbrew@hotmail.co.uk

Les Broadfield and two other cadets of 1047 Squadron

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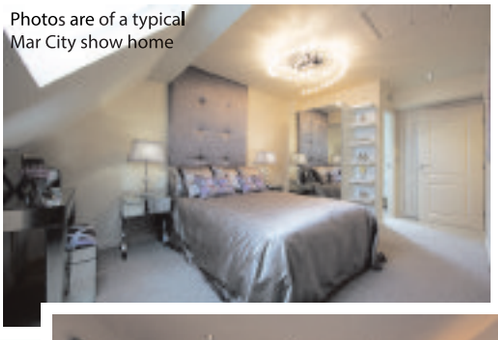
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More than 120 homes on site of old hospital

PLANS to build 129 homes on a derelict hospital site in Wordsley are to be approved – nine years after a housing scheme was first put forward.

Most of the current buildings in the Ridge Hill Hospital grounds, including the Keeling Centre and Shousters House, which are empty, would be demolished.

Residents have long called for the site to be cleaned up and the disused site brought back to life.

Ward councillor Paul Brothwood said he welcomed news that the site is to be revamped but is concerned about the impact of the scheme on local roads.

Concerns

Councillor Brothwood said: "It's been derelict for some time so it's good to hear it will be brought back into use. But I have raised concerns about the additional traffic it will create on Brierley Hill Road.

"That road is a nightmare already so I think the developers need to make sure there is a good long-term plan and local road improvements. I am worried about the additional pressures this is going to put on the existing system, but we desperately need more houses in the borough."

By David Cosgrove

Council planners have been recommended to give the project the green light at the next development committee meeting.

A report written for the planning officers concludes: "The proposed development would positively contribute towards the delivery of new housing supporting sustainable housing growth."

NHS Property Services is behind the project for the site, which would see the majority of existing structures knocked down.

The Ridge Hill Centre LIFT building, Pens Meadow School and bungalows and residential accommodation for assisted living would be retained.

Plans for homes to be built at the site were first lodged as far back as 2007.

It's full steam ahead as the SVR reopens

Passengers disembark after steam engine 7812 Erlestoke Manor, which served GWR and BR, pulls into Bewdley Station

IT was full steam ahead as the Severn Valley Railway reopened following its winter engineering works.

An array of steam and diesel locomotives were on display last Saturday, with visitors also able to soak up the bygone era daily during half term.

Timetable 'A', otherwise known as the blue timetable, will be operating until February 21.It means that the off-peak service will operate two steam-hauled trains during the day, providing more travel opportunities – as they are supported by a diesel-operated train.

Visitors can take a leisurely ride in comfy carriages, hauled by an historic steam locomotive to visit the picturesque towns of Bridgnorth and Bewdley, while enjoying the spectacular scenery of the Severn Valley.

The visitor centre at Highley will also be open, which is home to a collection of full-size steam locomotives. Enthusiasts takes a behind-the-scenes look at the locoes as well as delving into the intriguing history of Britain's railways, and experiencing themed exhibitions.

The £300,000 diesel depot being built by the SVR at Kidderminster is nearing completion and will help to preserve the fleet of heritage diesel locomotives.

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fast theticket

Dreamy ballet

Royal Ballet at Hippodrome
– See Page 23

Pop sensation Halsey

Page 23

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by Eric Chappell

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Ed Byrne

Friday, 8pm
Town Hall, B'ham

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Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Jesse Malin

Tonight (Thu), 7pm
O2 Institute, B'ham

The New York rocker returns after two album releases last year, New York Before The War and Outsiders, and a reissue for his 2002 debut. Don DiLego and Trapper Schoepp support.
www.o2institutebirmingham.co.uk

Foals

Friday, 7pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

Oxford band Foals headline a big indie night out that will also feature a DJ set from local heroes Peace and support from fidgety art rockers Everything Everything.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

Hinds

Tuesday, 8pm
Hare And Hounds, Kings Heath

It is sure to be a full house for these Spanish girl power garage rockers who have caused a stir with punky lo-fi rock 'n' roll debut album Leave Me Alone.
hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Shuggie Otis - CANCELLED
Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Paul Carrack
Sat at 7.30pm,
£28.50 - £38.50
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Boss UK: Springsteen Tribute
Fri at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Billy Fury Years Show
Sun at 7.30pm, £18.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Fun Lovin' Criminals
Thu at 7pm, £23.50
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The Doors Alive: The Doors Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

UK Throwdown Tour: Max Raptor
Mon at 7pm,
The Rainbow,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Lucy Spraggan
Fri at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Metal All Dayer
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Rhino's Revenge – CANCELLED
Sat at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Damien Dempsey
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Wilson
Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Foals
Fri at 7.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Fat White Family
Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Allison Weiss + Jenny Owen Youngs
Sat at 6pm - 10pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Walk The Moon
Tue at 7pm - 11pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Boy & Bear
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Heather Small - The Voice Of M People
Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Inglorious
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Magna Carta
Sun at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Hinds
Tue at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Halsey
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Twenty One Pilots
Tue at 7pm, £13.50 - £16.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

JAZZ & BLUES

The Blues Band
Thu at 9.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Hot Ginger's Charity Ball
Sat at 8pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Mitch Perrins Atlantic Quintet
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

GoGo Penguin
Tue at 7.30pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Vula Viel
Thu at 8.30pm - 10.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Tru Groove
Fri at 11pm, Sat at 11pm,
£0 - £8
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Room 4 the Blues - Session
Fri at 8pm
The Claregate Function Room,
Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.

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Call 0121 443 4725

Cash: Johnny Cash Tribute
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Will Varley
Thu at 7pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Rising Stars: Quatuor Zaide
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Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Sarah Nicolls: Moments Of Weightlessness
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

The Great Songs Of Musical Theatre
Sun at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Thomas Trotter
Mon at 1pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Youth Orchestra: Rachmaninov's Second
Sun at 7pm, £20
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Gilded Merkin
Sun at 6pm - 11pm, £15
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Jersey Boys
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Lost Things
Fri at 11.30am, 2.30pm, Sat at
11.30am, 2.30pm
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Musicians
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Odyssey
Mon at 4.30pm, 7pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

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mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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Breaking The Code By Hugh Whitemore
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Single Spies
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Mon
at 7.30pm, Tue at 2pm, 7pm, Wed
at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Flying Solo
Thu at 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

ZooNation: Into The Hoods: Remixed
Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Jukebox Sixties Show
Fri at 7.30pm,
Kidderminster Town Hall,
DY10 1DB.
Call 01562 732158

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Dream & A Month In The Country
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, £10 - £26
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Romeo And Juliet
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,
7.30pm, £16 - £52
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Russian State Ballet And Opera House: Madame Butterfly
Wed at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

I Know All The Secrets In My World
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant,
Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

Princes Ida
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30/7.30pm,
£12/£10
Forest Arts Centre,
Walsall, WS3 1AG
Call 01922 452970

COMEDY

Ed Byrne: Outside Looking In
Fri at 8pm, £19 - £21
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Comedy Carousel
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Chris Martin: This Show Has A Soundtrack
Fri at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

MET Comedy
Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Jenny Eclair: How To Be A Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane)
Fri at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Carl Hutchinson & Iain Stirling
Thu at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Sandi Toksvig: Politically Incorrect - SOLD OUT
Tue at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

OTHER EVENTS

Caravan Camping & Motorhome Show 2016
Tue at 10am - 6pm, Wed at 10am
- 6pm, Thu at 10am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Bard puts spring in step for ballet

THIS spring's 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare has inspired Birmingham Royal Ballet's spring season in the company's home city.

Last seen on the Birmingham Hippodrome stage with their sumptuous annual festive treat The Nutcracker, BRB return with a programme of three ballets, including two based on plays by the Bard.

BRB is featuring a double bill of Sir Frederick Ashton's classic works, which includes his 1964 ballet The Dream, based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, which opens the company's year-long Shakespeare commemoration. The Dream will be paired with the famous choreographer's 1976 ballet A Month In The Country, being performed for the first time by Birmingham Royal Ballet.

A Month In The Country was one of the last works Frederick Ashton made for The Royal Ballet and is set to stirring music by Chopin.

The company's spring programme will also feature a revival of Kenneth Macmillan's full length classic ballet Romeo and Juliet.

The Dream and A Month In The Country opened last night (Wednesday) and runs until Saturday. Romeo and Juliet will be presented from February 24 to 27.

Elegant

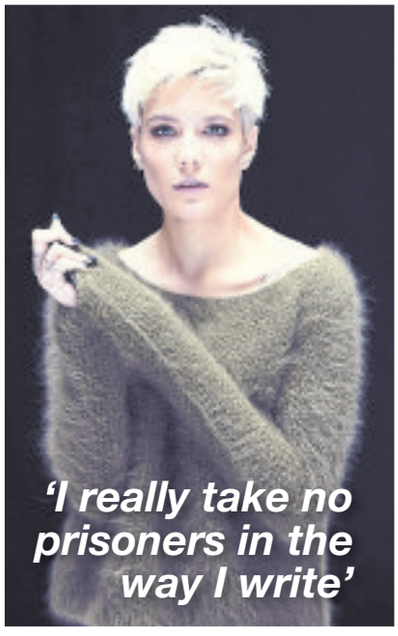
BRB spokeswoman Claire Lishman says: "In The Dream, love gets out of hand for mortals and fairies alike in an elegant and witty distillation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Alongside it, we offer A Month In The Country, inspired by Turgenev's play. Ashton captures the mood of the play through exquisite dance in this moving account of unrequited love."

On Romeo and Juliet, Ms Lishman adds: "Love at first dance, forbidden passions, dangerous secrets and fate combine in an exhilarating classic ballet."

Set to Prokofiev's soaring score, Romeo and Juliet tells the familiar tale of two young lovers at the mercy of powerful families and their own hearts. From the balcony scene's ecstatic pas de deux to the heart-breaking end, Romeo and Juliet has been an audience favourite since its first performance 51 years ago, when Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev received 43 curtain calls.

Star-crossed dancers – Birmingham Royal Ballet's Jenna Roberts as Juliet and Iain Mackay as Romeo
Photo: Roy Smiljanic

Other highlights will include John Cranko's adaptation of The Taming of the Shrew for performance at the Hippodrome from June 16 to 18; and BRB Company Director David Bintley unveiling the world premiere of his interpretation of The Tempest this October.



Honesty best Halsey policy

HALSEY had an awesome 2015. The singer and songwriter from New Jersey, real name Ashley Nicolette Frangipane, topped polls for best breakthrough act, got to No2 in the US chart with debut album Badlands, was special guest on Justin Bieber's track The Feeling and sold out New York's Madison Square Garden.

Still only 21, the one-girl-phenomenon is about to release her latest track New Americana and perform her first gig in Birmingham, at the O2 Academy on Saturday, as part of a sold-out UK tour. Just two years ago she was playing acoustic cover sets at random bars in the American north-east, having left high school with a desire to become a musician.

Early in 2014 everything changed because of one song, the appropriately haunting Ghost. She says: "Everyone I know in music was like 'the song starts with bridge and it's two minutes and 34 seconds long, you're making a mistake, that's not a single, that's not going to get anyone's attention'." Clearly her 70,000-plus Twitter followers who promptly downloaded it disagreed.

"People say I blew up over night," she says. "It took me two years. Sometimes I would be in the middle of Boston at 4am and would ask someone over Twitter if I could stay at their house."

Her music is autobiographical with places, names, even dialogue left intact.

"I'm open about talking about certain things that others may keep quiet," she says. "I want my music to be really authentic, candid, honest. I really take no prisoners in the way I write."

Some enchanted evening with CBSO

TOMORROW'S Friday Night Classics concert in Birmingham sees the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra paying tribute to Broadway legends Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Martin Yates will conduct the CBSO at the 7.30pm concert in Symphony Hall. They will be joined by the University of Birmingham Voices for songs from South Pacific, Carousel, The King and I, The Sound of Music and Oklahoma!

Special guests will include West End singers Robyn North, Sally Ann Triplet, Olivier Award nominated Michael Xavier and former Phantom Scott Davies.

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Singers' songs with a message

FANS of singer-songwriters can catch up with some class acts.

Jesse Malin fine tunes songs from his reissued 2002 debut The Fine Art of Self-Destruction at the O2 Institute tonight (Thursday). Then tomorrow Lucy Spraggan plays songs from her We Are album at the O2 Academy, also in Birmingham.

Paul Carrack, of How Long and The Living Years fame, is in concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.

Protest singer and acoustic guitar troubadour Will Varley, who has supported The Proclaimers and Frank Turner, is at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on February 25.

Foals galloping to stadium status

OXFORD band Foals play Birmingham Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday), the success of fourth album What Went Down having propelled them to stadium status. Don't miss support from quirky art-pop outfit Everything Everything.

Other highlights include Mystery Jets with songs from sixth and best so far album Curve Of The Earth at the O2 Institute in Digbeth tonight (Thursday).

On Saturday the notorious Fat White Family are at the O2 Institute, the same night Dudley outfit EofE play Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms. Blurryface duo Twenty One Pilots are at O2 Academy on Tuesday.

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, February 18, 2016

CHOICE

Rose Farquhar

The Voice UK (ITV, 7.15pm)
It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances.
This week's prospective stars are teenager Faith Nelson, barefoot vegan Rachel Ann, soldier Dave Barns, hairdresser Aaron Hill and Londoner Rose Farquhar, all of whom take to the stage in the hopes of progressing to the next round of the contest.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Indoor Grand Prix. Coverage of the meeting from Emirates Arena. **4.30** BBC News. **4.45** Regional Programme. **4.55** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Bournemouth v Everton (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.15 The Voice UK. It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances. This week's prospective stars are teenager Faith Nelson, barefoot vegan Rachel Ann, soldier Dave Barns, hairdresser Aaron Hill and Londoner Rose Farquhar, all of whom take to the stage in the hopes of progressing to the next round of the contest.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Married couple Mike and Cina from Wiltshire include a dream honeymoon on their perfect prize wishlist, and Shane Richie challenges them to answer questions in various categories to win their chosen items. Plus, Gaby Roslin is joined by guest Pixie Lott, performs live, and pushes the all important button for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.25 Casualty. Connie needs to prove her love for Grace, but has little time, and singer Hannah Spearritt returns as the mugger who attacked Noel, this time mixed up in a drugs deal.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.35 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from the latest FA Cup fifth-round ties, including Arsenal v Hull City at Emirates Stadium, and Watford v Leeds United at Vicarage Road.

11.35 Film: Shanghai Noon. (2000) A 19th-century imperial guard to the Emperor of China is flung into the Wild West on a mission to rescue a kidnapped princess. Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **7.00 Film:** This Land is Mine. (1943) **8.40 Film:** The Deadly Companions. (1961) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Lobo: The Wolf That Changed America. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **3.30** Earth's Greatest Spectacles. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Back in Time for the Weekend. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. The older members of the platoon are threatened with being made air-raid wardens, so they take drastic action in a bid to appear younger – with Mainwaring even wearing a toupee. Comedy first aired in 1972, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)

7.00 Film: Cast Away. (2000) A manager for an American courier service has to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone on a desert island. Initially panic-stricken, he overcomes his terror to survive for four years on his own before building a raft and setting off on an epic journey back home. Adventure drama, starring Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt, Nick Searcy, Lari White and Chris Noth.

9.15 Kipling's Indian Adventure. Ex-soldier and author Patrick Hennessey follows the journey the 16-year-old Rudyard Kipling made to India in 1882. Retracing Kipling's voyage from Lahore in modern-day Pakistan to the north Indian hill station of Simla, known as the summer capital of British India, Hennessey explores how the young author's encounters with various rulers, officers, subalterns – and the common-folk they ruled – came to inform his Nobel Prize-winning literature.

10.15 Live at the Apollo. Russell Kane comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Roisin Conaty and Nick Helm. (R)

11.00 Film: The Ides of March. (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Ryan Gosling.

12.35 Film: Surviving Summer. (2009) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.35** Tipping Point. (R) **3.35** The Chase. (R) **4.35** Regional Programme : Weather.**4.45** ITV News; Weather. **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me 2. (2013) Premiere. A reformed criminal mastermind who has abandoned his wicked ways for a life of fatherhood and jam-making helps a secret agent to bring one of his fellow evil geniuses to justice. The villain in question has stolen a dangerous experimental serum with the power to turn harmless animals into ravening monsters. Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The presenter duo return with their live entertainment show, with Michael Sheen serving as guest announcer, and Wet Wet Wet taking part in tonight's Singalong Live.

8.30 Take Me Out. An athlete from Birmingham, a mechanic from Edinburgh, a Bedfordshire-based golfing coach and a potato-farmer from Co Down seek to win over Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Twilight Saga and Cuckoo star Taylor Lautner joins Jonathan in the studio, along with comedy actor and broadcaster Rob Brydon, and Australian-born UK tennis star Johanna Konta, who made headlines back in January as she became the first female British player to reach a Grand Slam's quarter-finals since 1984.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps. (2000) Bumbling scientist Sherman Klump tries to rid himself of his troublesome alter ego Buddy Love, but his experiment backfires. Comedy sequel, with Eddie Murphy.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Frostgun Invitational. **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Suffolk is hosted by anti-social behaviour officer Rachel, who hopes to win over her guests with an evening of comfort food and a few tricks up her sleeve. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales journey along the "London Ring", as it's known to narrowboat lovers, in a voyage of discovery through their home city. Starting in Brentford, they follow the Union Canal, and then the Regent's Canal until it meets the Thames at Limehouse. Along the way, they meet up with fellow actors Andrew Sachs and Ian McKellen, and visit the cemetery at Kensal Green, where their old friend, playwright Harold Pinter, is buried. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress learns about life in Cumbria, explores areas including Coniston, Morecambe Bay and Grasmere, and meets a community buying a local mountain.

9.00 Film: RoboCop. (2014) Premiere. A corporation that creates military robots seizes a chance to diversify into law enforcement when a Detroit cop is critically injured in a bombing. He is rebuilt as a crime-fighting cyborg, but struggles to regain his free will from his creators' control. Sci-fi thriller remake, starring Joel Kinnaman.

11.20 Film: Apocalypto. (2006) A Mayan tribesman captured for human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Mel Gibson's historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood.

1.50 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Two agents get caught up in a dispute between a landlord and a tenant who refuses to move out, while on the south coast, debt collection from a Turkish restaurant gets complicated. (R)

7.00 World War II in Colour. The Allied forces' preparations for the Normandy landings, including their attempts to fool the Germans into thinking the main attack would be in the Pas de Calais. (R)

7.55 The Gadget Show. Jason Bradbury, Amy Williams, Ortis Deley and Jon Bentley report from CES in Las Vegas, the world's largest consumer tech show, revealing the must-have gadgets of 2016. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Brighton & Hove Albion and Brentford v Derby County.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Barnsley v Doncaster Rovers and Barnet v AFC Wimbledon.

10.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are faced with a dilemma when a child abuse suspect offers to reveal the identity of a controversial civil rights group's leader in exchange for an amnesty. (R)

11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to one of the victims – but the case proves more complex than expected. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 How Earth Made Us **8.00** The Inca: Masters of the Clouds **9.00** Trapped **10.40** Rod Stewart Live at Hyde Park **11.40** Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **1.05** The Joy of Easy Listening **2.35** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.05 Ninja Warrior UK **12.10** Scorpion **1.05 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **3.05 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **4.50** Catchphrase **5.35 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.45 Film:** After Earth (2013) **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.45** Ibiza Weekender **11.45** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.20 Film:** Scary Movie V (2013) **1.55** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **2.45** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes **3.55** Bertie and Elizabeth **6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Man About the House **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Storage Wars **11.25** Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Storage Wars **2.20 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **4.15 Film:** Superman (1978) **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** Collateral Damage (2002) **11.10 Film:** Total Recall (1990) **1.30 Film:** Child's Play 2 (1990) **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **12.30** Rude(ish) Tube **1.30** The Jump **3.00 Film:** Furry Vengeance (2010) **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Virtually Famous **2.15** The Inbetweeners **3.05** The IT Crowd **3.55** New Girl **4.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.40** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **1.00** Step Up 3 (2010) **3.10** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **5.05** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **7.10** Just Married (2003) **9.00** About a Boy (2002) A womaniser who poses as a father to meet single women changes his ways after befriending a lonely youngster. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Nicholas Hoult. **11.00** The Man with the Iron Fists (2012) Martial arts adventure, starring RZA. **12.50** Sinister (2012) **3.05** Close

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04	London Theatre – **SUNNY AFTERNOON** Inc Afternoon Tea Cruise	2	225.00	50.00	175.00
04	London Theatre – **LES MISERABLES**	2	225.00	30.00	195.00
04	London Theatre – **WAR HORSE**	2	225.00	30.00	195.00
04	Hampton Court Palace – Florimania, Bluebell Steam Railway & Brighton	2	165.00	15.00	150.00
05	Mystery Weekend	1	89.50	10.00	79.50
05	Murder Mystery Inc Salisbury & Winchester	1	95.00	10.00	85.00
07	Isle of Wight - Shanklin	4	199.50	10.00	189.50
11	London Theatre – **WOMAN IN BLACK**	2	195.00	40.00	155.00
11	London Theatre – **GUYS & DOLLS**	2	225.00	50.00	175.00
11	Peak District & Kedleston Hall	2	159.50	10.00	149.50
11	Brooklands & Blenheim Palace	2	169.50	10.00	159.50
11	Wonders of Wiltshire	2	139.50	10.00	129.50
12	London Theatre - **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**	1	139.50	14.50	125.00
12	Murder Mystery	1	95.00	10.00	85.00
14	Valkenburg, Holland – Inclusive	3	235.00	35.50	199.50

Date	Tour	Nights	Brochure£	Save £	Special Offer£
15	P&O Cruise to Holland – Meals, Live Entertainment & Amsterdam	2	159.50	10.00	149.50
18	Torquay 6 Course Dinners & Live Entertainment	3	189.50	30.00	159.50
18	Hampton Court Palace & Steam Railway	2	165.00	10.00	155.00
18	London Theatre – **CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY OR MAMMA MIA** Inc Afternoon Tea Cruise	2	225.00	25.50	199.50
18	London Theatre – **BEAUTIFUL**	2	225.00	25.50	199.50
19	London Theatre – **BILLY ELLIOT OR WICKED**	1	149.50	24.50	125.00
24	Luxembourg Easter Departure	4	275.00	25.00	250.00
25	London Theatre – **MOTOWN**	2	225.00	15.00	210.00
26	Paris at Easter Hilton Hotel	3	235.00	40.00	195.00
26	Lake Garda - Italy Inc Venice	7	525.00	30.00	495.00
28	Bruges	3	235.00	40.00	195.00
29	Downton Abbey	2	199.50	10.00	189.50

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CHOICE

Tom Hiddleston

The Night Manager (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Adaptation of John Le Carre's novel, starring Tom Hiddleston, Olivia Colman and Hugh Laurie. A former soldier working in a Cairo hotel discovers evidence against international arms dealer Richard Roper, but his attempt to help British intelligence to capture the criminal has disastrous consequences. Five years later, he is based in Switzerland, working at a hotel that he discovers is regularly frequented by Roper. Determined to make amends for his previous failure, he reunites with his contact at British intelligence and they form a plan to infiltrate the arms dealer's inner circle.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Songs of Praise. **1.50** Lifeline. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **3.30** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Chelsea v Manchester City (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.00 BBC News.
6.15 Regional Programme.
6.25 Dickensian. Arthur visits Fagin and acquires the services of Bill Sikes in the hope he can put a stop to the wedding, while Compeyson makes a heartfelt confession to Amelia. Last in the series.
7.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Staffordshire, visiting a farming school and a barn owl reserve. Plus, a report on a possible treatment for an incurable tree disease. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Poplar is rocked by a series of violent attacks on women, and a prostitute is too ashamed to report what she knows – but her actions lead to a dangerous man roaming the streets, with devastating consequences for the residents of Nonnatus House. A mother tries to keep her daughter's pregnancy a secret to avoid gossip, putting her life in danger. The Turners go on a long overdue holiday, but the weather ruins their plans.
9.00 The Night Manager. New series. Adaptation of John Le Carre's novel, starring Tom Hiddleston. A former soldier has a chance encounter with an arms dealer, and helps British intelligence to capture him.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's fifth-round fixtures, which were Blackburn Rovers v West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace, and Chelsea v Manchester City.
11.15 The Super League Show: World Club Series Special. Tanya Arnold presents action from the World Club Series, featuring three matches.
12.00 Film: The Walker. (2007) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.05** An Island Parish. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15 Film:** Nicholas and Alexandra. (1971) Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Jayston. **3.15** Flog It! (R) **3.45** Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships. **5.15** Ski Sunday.
6.00 MOTD: FA Cup 6th Round Draw. Mark Chapman presents coverage of the quarter-final draw, as the remaining eight clubs learn who they will face, with a Wembley semi-final awaiting the winners.
6.20 Film: I Am Number Four. (2011) A teenager with special powers is forced to live as a fugitive, constantly moving from place to place with his protector to avoid aliens who seek to destroy him. His nomadic existence is threatened when he falls in love, just as he begins to realise the origin of his extraordinary abilities. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant and Teresa Palmer.
8.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman and Sarah Willingham cast their eyes over more business ideas, including a recipe for ice cream that is healthier than fruit and a new design of headphones that does not cover the wearer's ears. Plus, a barrister gets a lesson in margins. Last in the series.
9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. New series. Gabby Logan hosts the pro-celebrity tournament in aid of charity. The first rounds pit Greg Davies against Jordan Stephens and Mike Tindall against Katherine Ryan.
10.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Fact-based crime drama about the trial of former American football star and actor OJ Simpson for the murders of his wife and her friend. Cuba Gooding Jr stars. (R)
10.55 Film: Memento. (2000) A man searches for his wife's killer in spite of the short-term memory loss he sustained during the same attack. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Guy Pearce.
12.45 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **3.05** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **4.00** Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.40** Catchphrase. (R) **3.40 Film:** Live and Let Die. (1973) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Planet's Got Talent. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring a water-skiing squirrel, a stunt driver and a multi-talented beat boxer.
7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Slean prepares for his wedding to Kela, but an unexpected development proves more than he can cope with. Abrecan's fixation on Herot leads him to neglect his own people.
8.00 Vera. A fisherman's body is found tangled up in a North Sea trawler's net. Vera and her team investigate with the help of the local harbourmaster, and find the dead man's sons pointing the finger at the owner of a fish market, with whom they have a long-running feud. Retracing the dead man's steps, Vera discovers when he drowned and tracks down a waitress who may have been one of the last people to see him alive. However, the case becomes more complicated when a witness runs away and a boat belonging to the dead man's sister-in-law goes up in flames. Last in the series.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Rookies. Mark is called to help a man who has been attacked with a baseball bat, while Dan attends a near-fatal stabbing during his first solo shift. Last in the series. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **2.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.05 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement. (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.50 Film:** Dumbo. (1941) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Edward Brophy.
7.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo. Documentary revealing the secret life of the animals of Chester Zoo, one of Britain's most popular zoos, using new micro-rig technology to capture the behaviour of the animals and their close relationships with their keepers. In the first episode, the zoo's Asian elephant family welcome a new arrival. Grumpy matriarch Thi has been pregnant for almost two years and is reaching the end of her tether. She's given birth to a stillborn baby in the past, so the keepers have a close eye on her. Cameras also follow Red panda Jung, who has been getting the cold shoulder from his partner Nima since they had two cubs. (R)
8.00 The Jump. Davina McCall presents another bout of winter sports action, as the remaining contestants compete in a mogul skiing event. The loser from each race will then have to face the jump, with one of them being eliminated from the competition.
9.00 Film: The World's End. (2013) Premiere. A 40-year-old man who refuses to grow up drags four reluctant childhood friends back to their home town to recreate a pub crawl they attempted in their teens. As they work their way round the 12 local bars, they stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, starring Simon Pegg.
11.10 Film: The Eagle. (2011) A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.
1.10 Embarrassing Bodies: The 36-Stone Woman. (R) **2.05** Celebrity Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** The 'Burbs. (1989) Black comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **4.30** 5 News Weekend. **4.35 Film:** The Money Pit. (1986) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long.
6.20 Film: The Fox and the Hound. (1981) An orphaned fox cub is taken in by a kindly widow, and becomes firm friends with a puppy belonging to a hunter. However, as they grow to adulthood, the dog is trained to prey on foxes, and the two animals realise their friendship may not survive as they are expected to be natural enemies. Animated adventure, with the voices of Mickey Rooney and Kurt Russell. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.
8.00 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.
10.05 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Part of Channel 5 80s Day. (R)
12.50 Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Great Scientists. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

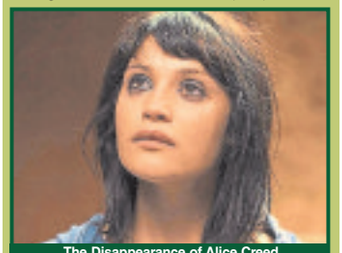
DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing **8.00** Andre Previn at the BBC **9.00** Storyville: The Black Panthers **10.45 Film:** Easy Money III: Life Deluxe (2013) **12.40** Troubadours: The Rise of the Singer-Songwriter **2.05** Sounds of the Eighties **2.35** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** Best of You've Been Framed! Gold **3.05 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.05** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.40 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00 Film:** Delivery Man (2013) **12.10 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.35 Bertie and Elizabeth **1.40** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **2.45** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes **3.55** Lewis **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant **9.00** Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India **10.00** Mrs Biggs **11.00 Film:** The Bucket List (2007) **1.00** Ghostboat **2.20** A Touch of Frost **4.05** On the Buses **5.00** Judge Judy **5.25** Movies Now **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.40 Counting Cars **12.35** The Classic Car Show **1.35 Film:** Death of a Gunfighter (1969) **3.30 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **6.15 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **11.10 Film:** Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.15** Ax Men **2.10** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.10** The IT Crowd **2.10** The 100 **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 Magic in the Water (1995) **1.00** The Legend of Zorro (2005) **3.45** Beaches (1988) **6.15** Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003) **9.00** The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins. **11.35** The Crazies (2010) **1.35** Feast of Love (2007) **3.45** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Righteous Kill, Channel 5, 10.55pm
Two veteran New York detectives are assigned the case of a murdered pimp. They realise they are dealing with a vigilante dishing out lethal punishment to those who have escaped the justice system, and as more dead criminals are found, they suspect the killer may be a fellow cop. Crime thriller, starring Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Carla Gugino, John Leguizamo and Donnie Wahlberg. (2008)

TUESDAY
Honor Student, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A writer is confronted by an ex-convict he once taught as part of a prison education programme, who accuses him of stealing her idea for a novel. Obsessed with revenge, she plans to murder him - but first she intends to make him suffer by ruining his reputation and destroying his marriage. Thriller, starring Josie Loren and Niall Matter. (2014)



The Disappearance of Alice Creed, Friday, BBC2, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
The Lookout, BBC1, 11.45pm
A teenager's promising future is cut short when a car crash leaves him with brain damage that affects his memory. Taking a job as a janitor at a bank, he falls under the influence of crooks led by a former school friend. However, as he becomes aware of their plan to pull off a robbery, he makes a desperate attempt to stop them. Drama, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Jeff Daniels and Isla Fisher. (2007)

THURSDAY
Stolen from the Womb, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A psychotic stalker gives a pregnant woman a labour-inducing drug, before kidnapping her newborn child . Drama inspired by true events, starring Larisa Oleynik, Laura Mennell and Sebastian Spence. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC2, 11.35pm
Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family, with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears, while she and both her captors have secrets that threaten to throw the plan into disorder. Thriller, with Gemma Arterton and Martin Compston. (2009)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Stars are out to shine at star-studded bash

The Brits returns to the O2 tonight to bring us a much-needed annual dose of music industry glitter, awkward award presentation and headline-generating performances during the dark days of British winter.

Tonight's headline act is Rihanna, who is back to perform for the fourth time, following the long-awaited release of her eighth album, ANTI.

It's likely that she'll perform her smash-hit single, Work, which topped of the charts in 90 countries.

For the Barbadian singer, it'll give her an opportunity to warm up before her world tour returns to the UK in June; and for her fans, it's the first Brit Awards performance since 2012, when she blew the crowd away with a rendition of We Found Love.

British songstress Adele was the first act to be named on this year's bill, which was considered quite a coup for the organisers.

Back in 2011, she performed a spine-tingling version of Someone Like You, but the year after she made headlines for swearing at "the suits" who forced host James Corden to cut her speech short, largely because Blur had bumbled around on stage before her.

Fresh from their half-time show alongside Beyonce at the Superbowl earlier this month, Coldplay will also be performing.

Chris Martin and co have suggested that their new album, A Head Full of Dreams, may be their last.

But, as they proved in a barnstorming London gig earlier this year, the record sounds as good live as any of their previous work.

Having recently beaten The Beatles' record for having the most singles in the UK top 40 at any one time, Canadian singer Justin Bieber is also sure to to be a hit with the Brits crowd.

There will also be performances from Jess Glynne, who rose to success in 2014 after being featured on Clean Bandit's single Rather Be, and James Bay, who won the Critics Choice Award 2015.

Canadian singer-cum-producer The Weeknd and 2011 X-Factor winners Little Mix will also be on stage.

Finally, there will a touching tribute to the much-missed David Bowie following his death on January 10.

Bowie was a two-time Brit winner and became the oldest recipient of the Best British Male Solo Artist award two years ago. On the awards front, Adele leads the pack with four nominations for the newly designed trophies.

She will be battling it out for the coveted Album of the Year award alongside Coldplay, Florence + the Machine, James Bay and Jamie XX.

The presenters of the Brits is always a big issue, and we seem to reminisce every year, who can forget Samantha Fox and Mick Fleetwood?

Thankfully this year's ceremony is in good hands as it will be fronted by last year's hosts Ant and Dec.

About returning, the pair said: "We really loved hosting the show last year.

"In all honesty we only intended to do it for one year but had such a good time we are thrilled to be doing it again.

"We had a great night, enjoyed a glass of champagne or two! So this year… more of the same!"

Ant and Dec host, The Brit Awards 2016, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Fresh Meat
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. The comedy returns for a fourth and final series, with the prospect of the real world looming large for the student housemates. JP's brother pays an unexpected visit and tells him it is time to knuckle down, while Howard has created a secret revision den in the cellar. Meanwhile, Oregon attempts to win a prestigious scholarship in America, Vod comes up with a scheme to help with her money troubles, and Kingsley is on the lookout for love, but possibly in all the wrong places.

Cuckoo
BBC1, 10.45pm
After the first series in 2012 the departure of Andy Samberg initially looked to be the end of the line for this show, one of BBC Three's most successful sitcoms. However the writers pulled of a Cuckoo coup when they recruited Taylor Lautner to fill the big-name American gap in season two. This third series opener picks up six months after Dale's dramatic departure during the 2014 Christmas special, and Rachel is still heartbroken, but she has managed to salvage a friendship with her jilted former fiancé Ben. However, just as life is about to return to normal in the Thompson household, a transformed Dale returns from China to shake things up again. Meanwhile, Ken and Lorna are preparing for the birth of their unplanned baby, and son Dylan gets ready to leave for university.

TUESDAY
The Inspectors Are Coming
ITV, 7.30pm
Cameras follow UK law enforcement teams, beginning in Cleethorpes where beach inspectors struggle with their new powers to fine as it goes against their usual laid back style. In Dumfries and Galloway, experienced law enforcers Erin and Jim are dishing out £80 penalties to anyone caught dropping a cigarette butt. Meanwhile, in the London borough of Newham, John and Terry face one of their busiest nights ever – could they be about to beat their record for the most number of noise complaints?

WEDNESDAY
The Great Sport Relief Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm
Sarah Millican hosts as actress Alison Steadman, comedian Ade Edmondson, singer Will Young and impressionist Morgana Robinson bake for Sport Relief. They must face three challenges set by judges Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry, with the overall winner receiving the coveted Star Baker Apron. For the signature challenge, they must create an open-top pie, before attempting to make a salmon roulade in the technical. Finally, the celebrities must use cupcakes to create a showstopper representing a momentous life experience. Last in the series.

The Great Sport Relief Bake Off, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

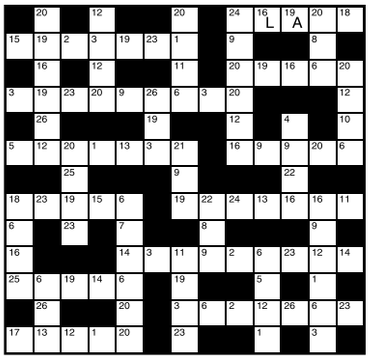
THURSDAY
The Great British Sex Survey
Channel 4, 10pm
So much for ëno sex please, we're British' – Channel 4 has discovered via a specially commissioned survey that UK residents are very much in touch with their sexuality. This programme takes a closer look at the results, revealing the nation's top 10 kinks and lifting the lid on some surprising practices. Experts, including psychotherapist Philippa Perry and Belgian sexologist Goedele Liekens, explore where unusual sexual desires come from, and investigate why some people only need a come-hither look to get them going, while others require something a little more elaborate. The Great British Sex survey also asks just what convinced us to shed our repressed image and start unbuttoning, and hears from the ordinary people who get up to extraordinary things in the bedroom.

FRIDAY
Comedy Playhouse: Hospital People
BBC1, 10.35pm
The BBC's revived Comedy Playhouse strand is back with three new pilots, all hoping to becoming fully fledged sitcoms. We'll soon see Alun Armstrong and Alison Steadman in Broken Biscuits, written by Early Doors creators Craig Cash and Phil Mealey, while Nigel Havers and Sarah Hadland are teaming up for Jack Docherty's Stop/Start, but we begin with Hospital People. The mockumentary follows a group of characters united by the fact that their lives revolve around the local hospital – and that they are all played by co-writer Tom Binns. His creations include manager Susan Mitchell, spiritualist porter Ian D Montfort, and someone who will be familiar to fans of Binns' stand-up, deluded DJ Ivan Brackenbury.

BRAIN GYM No.365

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



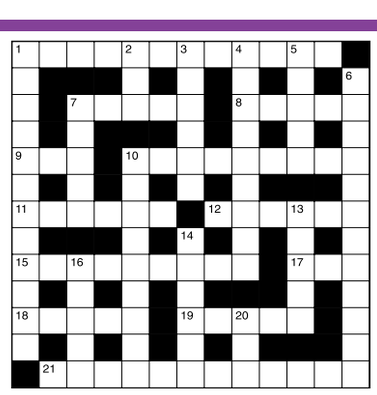
1	14
2	15
3	16 L
4	17
5	18
6	19 A
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	B	E	G	S	L	U	O	I	P	Z	M	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	J	N	R	Q	D	W	Y	H	T	A	C	V

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Mislay a Gilbert and Sullivan opera and get annoyed (4,8)
7. Widespread alarm of a hundred getting shocking pain (5)
8. See 9 Across
9,19 & 8Ac. Presumably no cold-blooded pursuer would be! (3,2.3.5)
10. Ineffective description of a broken pencil (9)
11. Northern shaft difficult to squeeze through (6)
12. Has no further use for fragments (6)
15. Backer to drink strong ale (9)
17. Fabulous winger to show back of stability, we hear (3)
18. Elegant dresser found in Scotland and Yorkshire (5)
19. See 9 Across
21. They conduct the fans to hearten the chiefs (5-7)

Down

1. Port, nautically speaking (4-4,4)
2. See 7 Down
3. In the first act I contrived a crafty manoeuvre (6)
4. Conveyance for the landed gentry? (6,3)
5. Charles goes to the end of the lane in pursuit (5)
6. The direct opposite of open revelations? (5,7)
7 & 2Dn. Darlings were abducted by him (5,3)
10. Professional to use the office machine - an original model (9)
13. Shocking rage before the end of the debate, but don't fall out (5)
14. Constitutional street register (6)
16. Misappropriate as nippers do (5)
20. Drink for most of the side (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Uneasy (12)
7. Put off (5)
8. Fire-raising (5)
9. Recede (3)
10. Isolate (9)
11. Wearisome (6)
12. Diversion (6)
15. Incessant (9)
17. Immerse (3)
18. Heading (5)
19. Object (5)
21. Formula (12)

Down

1. Genuineness (12)
2. Consume (3)
3. Anger (6)
4. Amorphous (9)
5. Prospect (5)
6. Stoppage (12)
7. Exclude (5)
10. Idiotic (9)
13. Command (5)
14. Seller (6)
16. Change (5)
20. Chart (3)

Sudoku

2		8		1				
		9			6	8		
	1		3	8			9	5
				4	1			
1		4			9	7		3
			7	2				
	8			9	5		7	
	4	6	1			5		
5				6		1		8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
3	6	1	7	4	5	8	9	2
9	4	5	2	8	3	6	1	7
5	2	3	4	7	6	9	8	1
6	1	4	5	9	8	7	2	3
7	8	9	1	3	2	4	6	5
2	3	8	6	5	4	1	7	9
4	5	7	8	1	9	2	3	6
1	9	6	3	2	7	5	4	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Abandon; 8 Hot dog; 9 Balmier; 10 Retain; 11 Keeper; 12 Parental; 18 Organist; 20 Career; 21 Slight; 22 Copious; 23 Repeal; 24 Wealthy. Down: 1 Therapy; 2 Stature; 3 Motion; 5 Blackleg; 6 Number; 7 Obeyed; 13 Thorough; 14 Ringlet; 15 Stately; 16 Parole; 17 Denial; 19 Asleep. QUICK - Across: 4 Halfway; 8 Brutal; 9 Affront; 10 Object; 11 Uproar; 12 Vicarage; 18 Interval; 20 Debase; 21 Fondle; 22 Several; 23 Pistol; 24 Feather. Down: 1 Absolve; 2 Subject; 3 Cancer; 5 Affluent; 6 Furore; 7 Annual; 13 Alienate; 14 Avidity; 15 Elderly; 16 Severe; 17 Patent; 19 Exotic.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Where is the seat of the U.N. International Court of Justice?
2. What branch of the arts do you associate with Jean Ingres?
3. How many popes have been called Leo?
4. Which body of water separates Italy from Sicily?
5. Of which country was Milton Obote president?
6. What is pinchbeck?
7. Who founded Singapore in 1819?
8. What does the Russian word samovar mean?
9. Of which country was Mario Soares made president in 1986?
10. Where was the liner Queen Elizabeth destroyed by fire in 1972?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The scar left by a healed wound; 2 1968; 3 Hokkaido; 4 Saigon; 5 French; 6 Cantilever; 7 El Cid; 8 112; 9 1972; 10 15 million.

Niner: CURTAINED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7393 gives a game,
241182 gives a second game,
23456827 gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THIS WEEKS SONY TOP DEALS

SONY KDL-32W705C
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•X-Reality PRO
•android tv
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*Simulated UI. Applications availability varies by country and device

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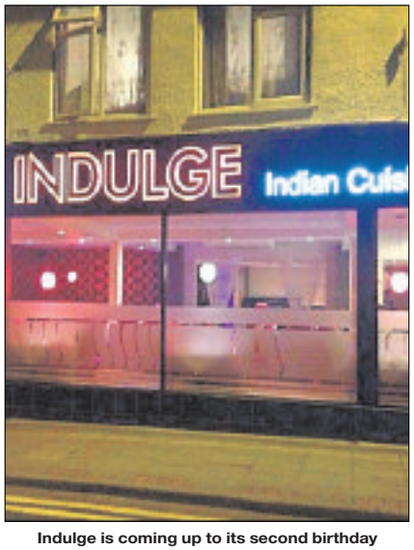
Shahin Ahmed, second from left, with his waiting staff and cookery team

The tender lamb shank was beautifully cooked

The plush interior of Indulge restaurant, Cannock Road, Chadsmoor



Indulge is coming up to its second birthday

Take time to Indulge in popular area's new restaurant on block

WITH a cluster of Indian restaurants in such a small area, competition is fierce. But why not Indulge in the new kid on the block?

Indulge, on Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, has gone through a number of incarnations over the years. However, just shy of its second birthday, it has already lasted longer than any of its predecessors – and has risen up the Trip Advisor rankings.

Of all the eateries in the Cannock Chase area, Indulge is the second highest ranked Indian restaurant.

Unsurprisingly, proprietor Shahin Ahmed, otherwise known as Raj, is proud of the achievements of himself and his staff, and points to the quality of its food and service, as well as the hard work that has gone into the business for its success.

By Mark Shipp

"Things are really picking up and we are very happy at how things are going," he said, adding that the support and feedback from customers was inspiring them to grow even further.

Raj believes the introduction of Sunday five-course set meals, at £8.95, and Tuesday and Wednesday eat-as-much-as-you like gourmet nights at £9.95 have also gone some way towards its new-found status.

It's a very easy restaurant to spot, so the lack of success under previous guises is hard to fathom.

It's certainly plush inside, with 110 covers, though it does look as though it could hold more.

And here's a twist. If you fancy a private function, you can have the back room – complete with dance floor, to yourselves – and with your own choice of images projected on to the wall.

The restaurant is not licensed, so we took our own alcohol.

Food prices are generous and there is an extensive list of Chef's Exclusive dishes and House Specials. And if variety is the spice of life, someone had better tell my other half, for whom there is no need to even offer a menu. "If they don't have butter chicken or makhani chicken, I'm not going in, " she might as well say . . .

Fuss

They did, indeed, have butter chicken, so that's one happy customer to start with.

It was straightforward choice from our dining companion, too – but then when does a teenage girl ever make a fuss? At least she pored through what was on offer before deciding on her favourite tikka masala.

We were treated to a special platter starter to begin with, including chicken pakora, korahi kebab and moglai chicken – the latter, chicken marinated with garam masala and yoghurt and cooked with pepper, onions and garlic, was divine, but then so was the unexpected lamb shank we were served ahead of our starters.

Of course, there was little room for much else, but I still had to try my sea bass jhall fry main course. The fish was beautifully cooked and it had a hidden kick to it. But mixed with the lemon rice accompaniment it was the perfect blend for the palate.

Indulge is closed on Mondays, except for Bank Holidays, Opening hours are from 5.30pm-11pm. Special offers are available to mark its second year anniversary on March 15.

For more details, or to book a table at Indulge, call 01543 500771.

Park from £1 at our Wulfrun Centre and Pipers Row car parks
New rates apply

Park from £1 at our Wulfrun Centre, WV1 3BA and Pipers Row, WV1 3LA car parks.
Visit our spaces at ncp.co.uk
NCP
Terms and conditions apply.
New rates apply from 15/02/16 (Wulfrun Centre) and 16/02/16 (Pipers Row)

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Easter Monday March 28th
SOUTHPORT
Adults £17.00 O.A.P £16.00 Child £14.00
Tuesday 29th March
COTSWOLD MARKET & BOURTON ON THE WATER
Adults £15.00 O.A.P. £14.00 Child £12.00
Saturday 30th April & Monday 2nd May
VICTORIAN EXTRAVAGANZA & STEAM FAYRE IN LLANDUDNO
Adults £17.00 O.A.P. £16.00 Child £14.00
WELL DRESSING IN KISSINGTON
Thurs 5th May
Followed by afternoon in Buxton
Adults £16.00 OAP £15.00 Child £13.00
WE HAVE NOW MOVED TO 40 LOUISE STREET, GORNAL WOOD, DUDLEY
SUMMER HOLIDAY SCARBOROUGH
Friday 10th June to Friday 17th June
8 days half board
THE RED LEA HOTEL
£399.00 per person
SUMMER HOLIDAY ISLE OF WIGHT
Mon 18th July to Fri 22nd July
5 days half board
HOTEL MARIA SANDOWN
£239.00 per person
LATE SUMMER HOLIDAY GREAT YARMOUTH
Mon 5th Sept to Sat 10th Sep
6 days half board
THE HOTEL VICTORIA
£270 per person
www.2kstravel.co.uk Pick up times vary Ask when booking
40, Louise Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley 01902 670387

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1 The Broadway, Castle Hill, Dudley DY1 4QD

Extended dining room and kitchen at traditional semi

THIS three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Dennis Hall Road, Stourbridge, has an extended dining room and kitchen.

Located in a quiet residential location close to the town centre, it is for sale through Select Property Management at £167,495 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall, under-stairs storage, a lounge with a coal/log fire with a tiled hearth and feature surround, a dining room with a coal/log fire with tiled hearth and feature surround, a kitchen with a built-in cooker and a four-ring hob.

There are three bedrooms (one with fitted furniture), a fully tiled shower room, front garden with parking for two cars, garage and rear garden with two patios and lawn.

Contact Select Property Management on 01384 277701 or visit the website at www.selectsalesandlettings.com

Dormer bungalow has three bedrooms

THIS extended three-bedroomed dormer bungalow in Siddons Road, Coseley, is for sale through Swinscoes at £177,500.

With double glazing, gas central heating, a beautiful mature rear garden and driveway parking, it is also within walking distance of the train station. It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall, a lounge with French doors and a feature gas fire, a sitting room with a bow window, a dining room with French doors, a kitchen with a range oven with an extractor hood and an integrated washing machine, side lobby, bedroom with a shower room and furniture, two further bedrooms and bathroom with a claw footed bath. Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk

Dixon & Co Property Auctions

4th April
Starting at 7pm

7th June
Starting at 7pm

6th September
Starting at 7pm

8th November
Starting at 7pm

The Chase Golf Club,
Penkridge, ST19 5RN

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01785 220366

Dixon & Co
Sales Lettings Commercial

4 Crown Bridge, Penkridge
01785 711129

K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION

NEXT SALE

22nd March 2016

Entries to date include;

Freehold & Leasehold Residential Properties
Vacant & Investment Premises

within Compton, Newbridge, Finchfield, Tettenhall, Goldthorn, Bilston, Sedgley, Tipton

Further entries invited
Please Register for Catalogue

2 Waterloo Road,
Wolverhampton WV1 4BL
(01902) 710626 / 424044
Email: swashauctions@btconnect.com
www.kstuartswash.co.uk

This three-bedroom semi also has a conservatory

NEW to the property market, this substantial three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Sunnybank Road, Dudley, is for sale through Skitts at £119,950 with no chain.

With majority double glazing and gas central heating it has excellent living accommodation comprising three bedrooms, a first floor bathroom with a white suite, a living room with wood-effect laminate flooring and a feature fireplace.

There is a conservatory with floor tiling and a good-sized kitchen with wood-effect units, contrasting working surfaces, space for a table and chairs and a stove and a ground floor WC.

There is also a garage and garden.

For further information contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net website.

A spacious family home on corner plot

AN EXTENDED and spacious four-bedroomed family home in Apley Road, within walking distance of Wollaston Village, is on a corner plot in a cul-de-sac on a corner plot.

It is offered for sale through Trinity Property at £270,000.

Having a good sized driveway and a garage to the side, double glazing and central heating, it has two reception rooms, an extended kitchen and downstairs WC/shower room.

pstairs there are four bedrooms (three doubles and a single) and a bathroom.

To the rear of the property the large garden has a fenced patio area, lawn, herb bed area and a seating area.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net website.

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AUCTION
25TH FEBRUARY 2016

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155 Lots
To include properties on behalf of:

Birmingham City Council · Wolverhampton City Council · Sandwell · Canal & River Trust · Birmingham and Solihull NHS · Network Rail

Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators

Vacant Residential Properties
Residential Investment Properties
Vacant Commercial Properties
Commercial Investment Properties
Public Houses
Land/Development Opportunities
Garages Investment & Ground Rents

ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

at Aston Villa Football Ground

2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

9 Tanfield Road, Dudley
4 Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £59,000 - £69,000

75 Moden Hill, Sedgley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £175,000 plus

23 Halesowen Road, Halesowen
3 Bedroom Detached Property
Guide: £150,000 plus

2 Park Gate Mews, Newhall St, Tipton
1 Bed Residential Investment Property
However Tenant has Served Notice to Vacate
Guide: £45,000 - £50,000

Land Off Whitehall Road, Tipton
A Parcel of Vacant Freehold Land which Extends to About 0.67 acres
Guide: £25,000 - £30,000

*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots

**For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

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25TH FEBRUARY 2016

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at Aston Villa Football Ground

155 LOTS to include:

Viewing 22nd Feb 10:45 & 24th Feb 15:15

47 Lewis Street, Bilston
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 15:15 & 24th Feb 10:45

9 Ashfield Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Viewing 20th Feb 13:45 & 22nd Feb 13:45

9 Tanfield Road, Dudley
4 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £59,000 - £69,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 16:00 & 24th Feb 10:00

30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

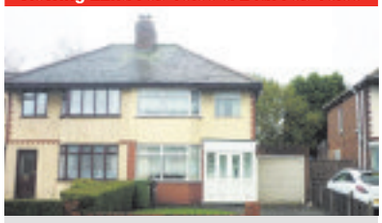
Viewing 20th Feb 10:45 & 22nd Feb 10:45

46 Newton Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 12:15 & 24th Feb 13:45

16 Windsor Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 10:00 & 24th Feb 16:00



263 Deans Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 13:45 & 24th Feb 12:15

156 Hilton Road, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 13:00 & 24th Feb 13:00

19 Veronica Av., Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000

Viewing 20th Feb 14:30 & 22nd Feb 14:30

2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 20th Feb 11:45 & 22nd Feb 11:45

20 Hereford Street, Walsall
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Viewing 20th Feb 12:30 & 22nd Feb 12:30

35 Wood Lane, Willenhall
4 Bedroom Link Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Viewing 20th Feb 10:00 & 22nd Feb 10:00

23 Harbeck Avenue, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 14:30 & 24th Feb 11:30

31 Langley Avenue, Bilston
4 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Viewing 20th Feb 15:45 & 22nd Feb 15:45

6 Ely Grove, Quinton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Viewing 22nd Feb 11:30 & 24th Feb 14:30

11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON SOME LOTS. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046.

**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

NETHERTON, Church Road

●●●VIEW EARLY●●● This SUBSTANTIAL & STYLISHLY DECORATED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Porch, Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master En-Suite), Family Bathroom, DOUBLE GARAGE, Garden. EPC D

£229,950

DUDLEY, Wistmans Close, Milking Bank

Enviably situated at head of cul-de-sac in favoured district a gas centrally heated UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED detached family home comprising traditional reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, good sized kitchen, pantry, utility room, fitted cloaks. FOUR bedrooms (principle bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, block paved fore garden, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £229,950

BRIERLEY HILL, Amblecote Road

This TRADITIONAL & 'BAY FRONTED', DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Porch, Hall, Two Reception Rooms with Bay Windows, Contemporary Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, LARGE REAR GARDEN & Driveway extending to Garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC F

£189,950

KINGSWINFORD, Dene Avenue

Just off Cot Lane, within this delightful cul de sac, this THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE requires updating, yet provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT, plus a driveway, GARAGE and a level, good sized patio/lawned garden. EPC E

No upward chain

£189,950

HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

This LUXURY TOP FLOOR SPACIOUS APARTMENT for 55yr owners, with amenities and country views, offers: Hall, 17'x13' Lounge, Dining area, re-fitted Kitchen, Bedroom 1 with En Suite, Master Shower room (both re-fitted), Double Bedroom 2. Own 2 car parking in front and Landscaped Gardens. EPC C

New price

£179,950

PENSNETT, Swan Street

This STUNNING NEW BUILD PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, Attractive Lounge, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS (Master Bedroom with En-Suite), Well Appointed House Bathroom, Large Driveway & Substantial Rear Garden. EPC: B

New price

£169,950

COSELEY, Ivyhouse Lane

Good sized detached property offering huge potential & situated in a popular area of Coseley. This THREE bedroom family home benefits from, porch, entrance hallway, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, utility area, bathroom, central heating, part double glazing, undercroft, tandem garage, driveway to front and good-sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. - Clear Mining Search. EPC: T.B.A.. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £169,950

COSELEY, The Paddock

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached offering potential having delightful lengthy/sheltered rear garden, and situated in favoured district overlooking cricket pitch briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, spacious hall, lounge, dining kitchen, three generous bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, Garage, lengthy garden. E.P.C. E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000

BRIERLEY HILL, Goldencross Way

This EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, MODERN STYLE, HOME comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Modern Kitchen, Dining Room, Attractive Lounge, Three Bedrooms (Master with Modern En-Suite), Well Appointed Bathroom, Off road Parking, Pretty Garden. EPC: C

£149,950

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

Well appointed, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed, FOUR BEDROOM Detached family home with integral garage situated upon a favoured Dudley development. The property is presented in superb order throughout, with refitted kitchen and laundry leading off, lounge, conservatory, neat gardens FOUR generously proportioned bedrooms. Lawned fore-garden with gravelled borders and a tarmacadam driveway approach. Internal inspection highly recommended. EPC TBA. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £229,950

WOODSETTON, Brook Street

SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached. Enviably situated with lengthy front garden in a popular district the accommodation provides; porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Lawned driveway to brick garage, good sized garden beyond. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £152,000, NOW £148,950**

LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Off Lake Street

50% SHARED OWNERSHIP Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate house in GATED DEVELOPMENT within walking distance of many amenities. Ground floor is a reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, lounge (with doors out to garden), store. THREE BEDROOMS (tremendous second floor bedroom with dormers and skylights), bathroom. garden, parking. Vendors 50% share for sale at £68,500 or full sale price £137,000. EPC:T.B.A. SEDGLEY.

NETHERTON, Lynbrook Close

This TRADITIONAL & DECEPTIVELY LARGE, THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Lovely through lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Brilliant Garden & Driveway extending to Garage. EPC.

£135,000

LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

Exceptionally well presented residence situated in this well sought after area of Lower Gornal with OPEN ASPECT VIEWS to rear. This family home, ideal for first-time buyers benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden and drive to front. Viewing essential to fully appreciate this fantastic property. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950

PENSNETT, Clyde Mews

This SPACIOUS & TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, White Gloss Kitchen, Conservatory with doors opening to REAR GARDEN, THREE GENEROUS FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Modern Shower Room, Large Driveway, Garage EPC: D

£129,950

WOODSETTON, Duncroft Walk

Favourably situated in the Woodsetton area of Dudley and enjoying a leafy open aspect to the front, this semi-detached property offers great potential. This good-sized family home benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, part double glazing, gas central heating and has NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £124,950

COSELEY, Evergreen Close, Hurst Hill

Modern intermediate property which is an ideal first time buyers home and is situated in a popular cul-de-sac location in Coseley. Its benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, sun room, TWO BEDROOMS, refitted shower room, double glazing and gas central heating with enclosed rear garden and parking to front. This property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end "starter home" with panoramic distant views briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/snug.Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers around £120,000

DUDLEY, Chestnut Avenue

This good-sized end of terrace family home benefits from entrance hallway, living room, well appointed kitchen-diner, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £114,950

PENSNETT, Tiled House Lane

This DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS & LARGE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely Lounge, MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Substantial Rear Garden. EPC:D

£112,950

PENSNETT, Mullett Street

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, This TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME would ideally suit FIRST TIME BUYERS or BUY-TO-LET INVESTORS & comprises: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens. EPC D

£104,950

DUDLEY, Ardley Close

A deceptively spacious family home, this intermediate property is situated in a popular cul-de-sac location in close proximity to the town centre. Generously proportioned it benefits from; porch, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, gardens to front & rear, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £99,950

WOLVERHAMPTON, Pond Lane, Parkfields

A THREE BEDROOM, gas centrally heated, mostly uPVC double glazed, end "starter home" in convenient "backwater" with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The accommodation includes: reception hall, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a fine upgraded range of units, transverse lounge, lean-to conservatory. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £99,500

COSELEY, Langley Avenue

NO UPWARD CHAIN.Deceptively spacious intermediate property which is situated in a cul-de-sac location in the popular area of Coseley. A good-sized starter home, it benefits from entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway to front and enclosed rear garden..EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £89,950

WOODSETTON, Brook Street

Mid terrace for improvement with remarkable potential-surprisingly spacious accommodation provides: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 3 first floor bedrooms, steps to attic - garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £89,950, NOW £84,950**

DUDLEY, Cypress Road

This WELL PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS & comprises: Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, TWO GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Front/ Rear Gardens. EPC C

£82,500

BROCKMOOR, High Street

This comprehensively refurbished and modernised, TWO BEDROOM, TERRACE PROPERTY comprises: Two Reception Rooms, Contemporary Kitchen, Modern Shower Room, Two Bedrooms and front driveway providing off Road Parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC D

£79,950

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GORNAL
Robert Street

A splendid, character-filled, tastefully renovated and extended family home in a popular location . . Entrance hall (full length) leads to lounge at the front, and cottage-style kitchen with range style oven to the rear, access to the rear patio and garden, and stairs to the first floor. The open landing on the first floor leads to: three good sized bedrooms, converted loft space and en-suite shower/ WC with three velux windows. Lawned area to the rear. Viewing highly recommended, freehold. EPC-TBC

£172,000

SEDGLEY
Gospel End Street

An OUTSTANDING and delightful mid terraced style cottage which offers original character features. Having two bedrooms and walking distance to Sedgley Village. Being tastefully decorated and presented to a high standard. This spacious and welcoming village home has been updated throughout, with a modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Also benefiting from a new replacement heating system, under floor heating and windows. To the rear there is terraced paved patio and rear access. With tunning Countryside views EPC-D

£149,950

DUDLEY
Cromwell Drive

A traditional semi-detached three bed house in a popular street, With lounge, a fitted kitchen with a door to the conservatory which has a downstairs WC off. Three good sized bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes. There is a shower/wet room/WC. Outside to the front there is a lawned area with alley giving side access to the rear garden, to the rear there is a patio area leading to the rear garden with a lawned area and shrub borders. No upward chain, viewing recommended. EPC-TBC

£124,950

WOLLASTON
Apley Road

An extended, spacious, four bed family home within walking distance of Wollaston village. Enjoying a position at the head (corner plot) of the cul-de-sac, there is a good sized driveway leading to the property, with a large single garage to the side. Internally, the property benefits from double glazing and central heating, downstairs having two reception rooms, an extended kitchen and downstairs WC/shower room. Upstairs there are four good sized bedrooms and and a house bathroom/WC. Large Rear Garden. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC TBC

£270,00

TIPTON
Thunderbolt Way

A modern, 2nd floor one bed apartment with double glazing and central heating, secure entryphone access, having a good-sized lounge/ dining room, modern fitted kitchen with integral oven and hob, double bedroom with built-in mirrored wardrobes and house bathroom/WC with electric shower over the bath. Allocated off road parking with free permit. Leasehold, priced to sell - viewing recommended. EPC TBC

£79,950

NEW BIRMINGHAM
Road, Tividale

A fabulous and well presented three bedroom detached home
The house benefits from a spacious through lounge/ dining room, fitted kitchen, Garage which is currently converted to a utility room. Having a modern and attractive family bathroom and three bedrooms. Also having a wonderful and well established rear garden. Driveway to the front providing ample off road parking. EPC - E

£199,995

WOLLASTON
Bridgnorth Road

A splendid family home with great character
Off road parking to rear with single garage
Mainly double glazed, centrally heated, alarmed
Two reception rooms
Modern fitted kitchen
Walking distance of local shops and amenities
Viewing highly recommended!

£199,950

TIPTON
Elizabeth Walk

A fantastic opportunity to acquire this lovely family home. Benefiting from being on a generous plot, the property also benefits from: Entrance porch, spacious hallway, lounge, dining room and kitchen. Three bedrooms on the first floor and family bathroom. Having attractive front and rear gardens, garage, driveway and a large workshop to the rear of the property. . EPC-F

£135,900

TIPTON
Jubilee Road

TRINITY PROPERTY are pleased to offer for sale a versatile and EXTENDED spacious home. Having an entrance porch, guest WC, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, spacious conservatory, MULT-USE room/ garage/ workshop, master bedroom with walk in wardrobe and ENSUITE, three further bedrooms, family bathroom, SECURE off road parking and front and rear gardens. The property comes with security cameras and SOLAR PANELS. EPC-D

£174,995

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BRIERLEY HILL
Station Road

Double room to rent. Suit a 25● working female, shared lounges, kitchen and bathroom. Cat lover ideal. Landlord on site. Room located within a three bedroom mid terraced house. The rent includes all bills - gas, water, tv licence, council tax and broadband. EPC - F

£280 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Southgate Way

Modern two bedroom apartment lwithin walking distance of to Dudley Town. Open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include integrated oven and hob. Has bathroom with one double and one single bedroom. The property is unfurnished , No Dss. No pets. EPC - C

£465 PCM & Fees

Bilston
Evergreen Close

Nicely presented one bedroom back to back mews house with garden and parking to the front. Located in cul de sac. Has open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include all white goods, bathroom on the 1st floor with shower over bath. Bedroom has large fitted wardrobes. Double glazing. Council tax band A. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC - D

£475 PCM & Fees

Gornal Wood
New Street

A character property in the popular Gornal Wood - a two bed semi-detached house with double glazing and central heating, having a good-sized lounge with feature fireplace, a fitted kitchen/diner, upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms - one single and one double. House bathroom/ WC with shower over the bath. Off road parking outside (not allocated), side alley leading to patio/yard to the rear with shed. Unfurnished, no pets, no DSS. Available now EPC E

£500 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Parsons Street

A two bed penthouse loft apartment, fitted kitchen inc cooker and fridge/freezer, shower WC, open plan lounge/ dining kitchen, great views. Part furnished. Central location, secure entry and parking available. No Dss. No Pets, Available in March, EPC- E

£525 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Pages Croft

A modern two bedroom third floor apartment on popular Priory Park development. Having lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, two bedrooms, bathroom. Double glazing, allocated parking and secure entry. Available to view now. No DSS, no pets. EPC - B

£535 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Leys Crescent

A three bedroom semi-detached house, driveway to side with gardens to rear. Central heating, a large lounge with conservatory off, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/WC, upstairs has three good sized bedrooms. Unfurnished, available now. No pets, no smokers. DSS considered with guarantor. EPC D

£550 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Pages Croft

A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment. Having open plan lounge and kitchen area to include built in appliances. Master bedroom with en-suite, bathroom. Secure entry, allocated parking. No DSS, no pets. EPC D

£550 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Dingle Close

Located in the popular Oakham area. This WELL PRESENTED three bedroom semi detached house is a MUST VIEW. Briefly comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, with three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom/WC to the first floor. Outside the property has a good sized rear garden, driveway to the front and a garage. No DSS or pets. EPC - D.

£575 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Sedgley Road

Nicely presented spacious modern two bedroom semi detached house with fully fitted kitchen including integrated appliances. The property has a large lounge with conservatory. Two double bedrooms both with en suite. Downstairs toilet. Pleasant rear garden. One allocated parking space to the front. No Dss. No pets. Available now to view. EPC ordered.

£600 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Westley Street

A modern 3 bed family home, parking for 2 cars with garage, double glazed with central heating, 2 double bedrooms main with ensuite shower and 1 single room, plenty of storage, unfurnished, near to amenities, . No DSS, EPC - C

£625 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Aintree Way

Situated on the popular MILKING BANK ESTATE. This spacious three bedroom DETACHED house briefly comprises of: entrance hall, lounge, dining room with patio doors to the rear garden, fitted kitchen and family bathroom. Outside there is driveway and garage and a low maintenance rear garden. EPC - E AVAILABLE NOW.

£750 PCM & Fees

Sedgley
Eton Close

A four bed detached house with double glazing and central heating, in a cul-de-sac location, within reach of schools, local shops and good transport links. Briefly comprising reception hall, cloak room, further store, large lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, dining room with patio doors through to conservatory to rear. On the first floor there are four good sized bedrooms, master with fitted units and shower room en suite and house bathroom/WC. Outside there is a gated drive, carport, garage, additional parking to side, good sized garden with patio area to rear. Unfurnished, no pets, no DSS, no smokers. EPC D

£750 PCM & Fees

Hot hatch Focus RS lives up to the legend

By Ed Wiseman

We've seen the photos. We remember the legends. We've slurped thirstily at every droplet of info that leaks from the Ford PR machine. But does the Focus RS live up to the legend?

The Focus RS is a blue-collar hero. Since its introduction in 2002, the RS – which stands for 'Rallye Sport' – has been the halo model for fast Ford fans in the UK. It's a nod to legendary cars like the RS1600 and the Sierra Cosworth, both of which were attainable and immensely quick.

Prices for this car start at just under £30,000, and its driving dynamics and sheer power would challenge cars costing three times that.

It's all-wheel-drive, it hits 62mph in 4.7 seconds, and it sounds like an angry lion. Ridiculous. This is the kind of car you could fall in love with – and then lease for £299 a month from your nearest Ford dealer.

It's pretty subtle until you notice the more aggressive bodywork, the spoiler above the rear windscreen, and the sculpted front and rear. The launch colour is Nitrous Blue, which accounts for most of the orders currently placed, but opting for a quieter colour will create an understated 'sleeper' car.

Ford has used some interior space to build a unique all-wheel-drive system. You lose around 60 litres from the (already mediocre) boot, and the standard seats are bulky and eat into rear passenger legroom. Splash out on the shell seats for a more comfortable cabin.

Despite being a performance-oriented car, the RS has all the mod cons you'd expect. A couple of 12v charging sockets up front, loads of stowage space, and some USB ports as well.

Brilliant

Ford has built a brilliant driver's car. They even have a metric for how 'fun' it is to rev the engine (very), and they teamed up with stunt driver and internationally-renowned boy racer Ken Block to make a car that you can mess around in.

The RS has four main driving modes. Normal, Sport, Track and Drift. If those last two words don't excite you, then you should probably stop reading, as the RS isn't for you.

'Drift' mode enables you to drive sideways in a cloud of tyre smoke. The amount of technology that has gone into creating this preposterous toy is staggering, especially considering it has no real-world application outside a deserted carpark at 2am. It's huge fun and very controllable, artificially creating predictable oversteer.

'Track' mode is where the RS really shines. Built to flatter amateurs and satisfy professionals, it really does make you look good on the track – ham-fisted driving is smoothed out by the car's powerful computer.

If you want track day success, but lack talent, this could be the car for you.

That's not to say it's for beginners. If you know what you're doing, you'll be able to get the most out this performance Ford – and goodness me, it's capable.

It costs around £30,000, going up to £33,000 if you tick every option.

For this you get one of the best-handling cars currently for sale, and the most versatile performance hatchback ever. All in a sensible, five-door, family car package that you can use every day.

Anyone who wants everyday driving fun and has £30,000 to spend on it should buy this car. You can drive it like a vanilla Focus for the most part, but every other Saturday, this family wagon will turn into a monster on the track. If you're the kind of person to occasionally take a longer, twistier, more interesting route home, then this is the car for you.

This car summed up in a single word: Bonkers.

If this car was a: weapon it would be a sawn-off Purdey. Impressive craftsmanship, repurposed for use by ruffians.

TESTED

Ford Focus RS, from £29,995

Engine: Turbocharged petrol 2.3-litre producing 345bhp, 324lb/ft (347lb/ft on transient overboost)

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 165mph, 0-62mph in 4.7 seconds

Fuel economy: 36.7mpg

Emissions: 175g/km of CO2

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2005/05 LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.0 TD4 E HARDBACK 3 door, Blue, 55,114 miles £5,995

2005/55 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4I 16V DESIGN AUTO 5 door, Silver, 49,473 miles £3,850

2012/12 VAUXHALL AMPERA 0.0 ELECTRON AUTO ELECTRIC HYBRID 5 door, Grey, 38,000 miles £14,995

Vauxhall Adam Selection
2013/13 VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.2 Yellow 30,000 miles £6995
2013/13 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 3 door, White, 10,175 miles £7295
2013/13 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS JAM Red, 8,654 miles £7295
2013/63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS SLAM 3 door, Yellow, 7,450 miles. £7995
2014/14 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS JAM Arden Blue, 3,656 miles £8695
2014/64 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i GLAM 3 door, PANORAMIC ROOF White, low mileage £9495

Vauxhall Ampera
2012/12 VAUXHALL AMPERA ELECTRON HYBRID White, 25,000 miles £14995

Vauxhall Antara Selection
2007/07 VAUXHALL ANTARA 4X4 AUTOMATIC Grey, 70,000 miles £6995
2012/61 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.4i 16V 167PS EXCLUSIV 5 door, Black, 38,697 miles £9350
2012/12 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 EXCLUSIVE CDTi 5 door, White, 30,000 miles £9995
2012/12 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi SE NAV AU 5 door, Grey, 39,245 miles £11995

Vauxhall Astra Selection
2007/07 VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI SPORT HATCH 1.6 3 door, Grey, 47,000 miles £3995
2007/07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DIESEL ENERGY Grey, 44,000 miles £4350
2007/07 VAUXHALL ASTRA TWIN TOP DESIGN 48,000 miles, Red £4995
2007/07 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi TWINPORT 5 door, Black, 36,902 miles £4995
2010/60 VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 1.7 DIESEL SRI Black, 70,000 miles £6495
2010/60 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 door, Grey, 54,000 miles £6495
2010/60 VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4i ESTATE grey 50,000 miles £6650
2011/61 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE 5 door, Silver 23,000 miles £7495
2012/12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRi 5 door, White, 43,000 miles £7995
2012/62 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.7 3 door, Red, 17,291 miles £9650
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SRi 5 door, choice of colours and engines available, 15,000 miles £10995
2014/64 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DESIGN CDTi ECOFLEX 5 door, Silver, 7,316 miles £10995
2013/13 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTi SRi 19" Alloys, White, 15,000 miles £11495
2015/64 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T Yellow, 10,000 miles £11595
2014/64 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 2.0 CDTi S/S White, 8,759 miles £12250

Vauxhall Corsa Selection
2009/09 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN 3 door, Met Green, only 29,000 miles £2995
2012/62 VAUXHALL CORSA 3 door, Red, only 19,000 miles £5995
2012/12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE Black, 45,000 miles £6495
2014/63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN AUTOMATIC Grey, 21,000 miles £7495
2015/64 VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 3 door, Grey, only 3,200 miles £7995
2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 3 door, Grey, 14,500 miles £8995
2010/10 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR 3 door, Blue, 26,908 miles £9495
2015/15 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC 5 door, Black, 13,332 miles £10995
2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 TURBO 3 door, Silver, 4,338 miles £11495

Vauxhall Insignia Selection
2012/12 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIV 43,000 miles, Silver £7450
2012/61 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV 2.0 CDTi 5 door, Silver, only 18,000 miles £8995
2012/62 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi NAV ECOFLEX 36,000 miles, Grey £9495
2014/64 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8VVT SRi 140PS 5-door, Silver, Hatchback, 9,000 miles £11995
2015/15 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8i VVT 140 SRi Hatchback. White, 9,583 miles £12795
2014/64 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA COUNTRY TOURER NAV 18,000 miles, Grey £16495
2015/15 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SPORTS TOURER CDTi BI-TURBO 195 PS VX LINE Red, 7,300 miles £17995

Vauxhall Mokka Selection
2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 EXCLUSIV 115PS 5 door Hatchback, St/Sp, Blue, 18,737miles £11495
2012/62 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi SE 130PS 5 door Hatchback, White, 15,000 miles £13995
2014/14 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI SE White, 18,000 miles £13995

Vauxhall Meriva and Zafira Selection
2008/08 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRi MPV Blue, 59,000 miles £4995
2011/60 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6i 16V EXCLUSIV 5 door, Silver, 39,891 miles £5995
2012/12 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN Silver, 36,000 miles £7995
2012/12 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTi EXCLUSIV Silver, 55,000 miles £7995
2014/14 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 TECHLINE Black, 5,489 miles £9495
2012/12 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 TURBO Silver, 29,000 miles £9995
2013/63 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0CDTi SE White, 24, 000 miles £12650

Other Makes
2002/02 RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET 1.6 Silver, 52,000 miles £2495
2005/05 HYUNDAI GETZ 3 door, Red, 38,000 miles £2495
2007/07 RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS Black, 44,000 miles £2650
2005/05 MGF SUNSTORM Silver, 75,000 miles, IMMACULATE £2995
2005/05 VW BEETLE 1.6 CABRIOLET 3 door, Blue, 55,500 miles £3695
2010/60 RENAULT GRAND MODUS 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE 5 door, 23,500 miles, Blue £5350
2011/61 RENAULT WIND 1.2 TCE GT LINE 2 door, Blue, 45,386 miles £5250
2005/55 HYUNDAI TUCSON 45,000 miles, Silver £5495
2003/03 TOYOTA RAV 4 2.0 NRG 3 door Estate, Silver, 49,198 miles £5695
2007/07 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE 3.2 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE 65,000 miles £7995
2010/10 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA DDIS SZ DIESEL 4X4 68,000 miles, Grey £7995
2012/12 MINI 1.6 CLUBMAN D ESTATE Silver, 28,432 miles £8995
2013/13 RENAULT CLIO DIESEL 5 door, 23,000 miles, Yellow £9495
2012/62 TOYOTA RAV 4 2.2 D-4D XT-R 5 door, Metallic Red, WITH REVERSE CAMERA, 31000 miles £14750

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Tiny tweaks make great product even better

By Ian Donaldson

You know a car is important to its maker when the first 25 pages of the info pack for road testers is all about the vehicle's heritage. Only then do you arrive at today's machine.

Which in this case is the latest version of the car that means perhaps more than anything to BMW – the 3 Series.

More than 14 million of them have been sold since the first one appeared as a modestly sized sporty saloon in 1975.

Today, around one in four BMWs sold around the world is a 3 Series.

So its continuing success, against ever stronger opposition (Jaguar's XE is the latest) could not be more important for the Bavarian car maker.

And that means you tinker with the basics at your peril. Much more sensible to advance in small steps, making successive models a bit faster, slightly more economical and making sure there are enough versions to tempt the maximum number of potential buyers.

Pole

Which, in the case of UK 3 Series buyers, means at least 112 different types to consider, from modest rear-wheel drive petrol models to big diesel bruisers with all-wheel drive and enough attitude to take pole position in the company car park.

That's before you take in the list of possible options. Always a German car maker's speciality, you can go crazy with the tick boxes and end up with something like the car on test.

It was laden with an extraordinary £12,010 worth of options. Decide that after all you could live without a front armrest with sliding adjustment and already you've clawed back £45 (and every little helps).

You don't of course, have to take any of the options, although you won't see many 3 Series without metallic paint (£645) and heated front seats (£325) ought to be standard.

But back to the car itself; put it next to a just superseded version and you'd need to be a BMW anorak to spot the difference.

Tiny changes to air intakes and lights are the signs, while inside you might spot a bit of high gloss black – and cup holders with a sliding cover.

Economy

Under the bonnet all the petrol engines and most of the diesels are new to the 3 Series, with useful gains in economy and emissions the result.

BMW knows it has to maintain its reputation as a maker of cars with a sporty feel and its engineers worry about the details, to the extent that the front suspension now uses five bolts to hold it to the body instead of three.

That means less distortion and a purer feel when you're pressing on.

Which you may want to do in a car like the model on test. Slipping into the hip-hugging front seats (a part of the £2,500 you pay for the M Sport package) you know instantly that BMW sweats the details.

So the pedals are in precisely the right place, the instruments big, bold and easily read and there's a general air of sober sense and lots of well applied black.

You might find the stiffened suspension a bit grumbly over poor road surfaces but the poise and balance of the car is compensation enough.

The eight-speed auto box comes into its own when you feel less like a potential F1 entrant – perhaps on the way home after a hard day at the office when nothing went right.

We all have days like that; the 3 Series driver is better positioned than most to cope with them.

TESTED

BMW 320d xDrive M Sport Auto

Engine: Diesel engine, 187bhp

Warranty: Three years, unlimited mileage

Economy: The BMW 3 Series can do 60.1mpg

Insurance: 31

Price: £35,960

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No more fear of the shopping trolleys!

By Sharon Walters

The Citroën Cactus may have an unusually quirky image but it's a joy to drive and offers excellent fuel economy.

We shouldn't have been surprised when the rather unusual Citroën Cactus arrived on our streets. Looking a little like a chunky child's toy or something from Thunderbirds, it follows on from all those great quirky cars that the French company used to give us.

In the past it was a company that dared to be different and brought us very individual cars like the DS, 2CV (remember the one with the soft top?), the SM, the CX and the BX. And not so long ago the Xantia Activa, the C6 and the C4. They weren't always successes but we certainly remember them, if only for their looks.

Now we have the Cactus and and its timing couldn't have been better. Let's face it, crossover vehicles had become so popular they had moved from the alternative to a comfortable family hatch.

We now have a crossover that looks unlike any other vehicle on the roads, with its Airbump side cladding and a shedload of other bold details.

A large panoramic sunroof features a state-of-the-art coating to filter UV light and reflect heat, and fills the cabin with diffused light.

Unique to the C4 Cactus and an instantly recognisable feature of the model is Citroën's new Airbump technology.

Fitted to the front and rear doors, the tough air-filled TPU (thermoplastic polyurethane) capsules protect against minor bumps and scrapes.

Airbump panels do not need specific maintenance and reduce the stress and expense associated with car park dings and dents – cutting service and repair costs over the lifetime of the car.

While the interior looks uncluttered and without much in the way of technology, there is an awful lot discreetly placed.

Fitted as standard, the fully digital Touch Drive interface features a 7-inch touchscreen to control all the main vehicle functions.

These include automatic air conditioning, media (DAB radio, audio streaming, mobile connections, music and photo storage), navigation (map view, speed limit display, traffic conditions, fuel-efficient routing), driving aids (reversing camera, park assist, speed limiter/cruise control), telephone (hands-free via Bluetooth, contacts, call management), connected services and vehicle settings.

It takes a while to get to grips with but once mastered the interface is excellent.Plus, there are some shortcut keys on either side of the main screen for practicality.

There is also a range of innovative aids available, including park assist to get into spaces and a reversing camera which displays the rear view and guidelines on the touchscreen.

Designed to reduce the cost of ownership throughout the life of the vehicle, the C4 Cactus's multi-award-winning features include a lightweight design, impressive fuel economy of up to 91.1mpg and excellent fuel emissions.

The car is offered with six efficient powertrains, four petrol – PureTech 75, PureTech 82, PureTech 82 S&S and PureTech 110 S&S – and two HDi diesels – e-HDi 92 and BlueHDi 100.

Engines are mated to either five-speed manual or five or six-speed ETG (Efficient Tronic Gearbox) transmissions. All diesels are sub-100g/km of CO2 and are eligible for free car tax. There is even a tax-exempt petrol version – the PureTech 82 S&S ETG – which emits just 98g/km.

While I was a little unsure about the looks, its economy and comfort won me over.

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Amount of credit	£8,345.00	Total amount payable	£8,845.00
Total charge for credit	£0	Duration of agreement (months)	25
Representative	0% APR	Selected annual mileage	6,000
		Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile

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£16,265

NO CUSTOMER DEPOSIT

4.9% APR REPRESENTATIVE OVER 3 YEARS

£290.28 per month

Personal Contract Purchase Example: **Kia Sportage 1.6 GDi '1'**

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Customer deposit	£0	One final payment (GFV)	£7,590.50
Amount of credit	£16,265.00	Total amount payable	£18,040.58
Total charge for credit	£1,775.58	Duration of agreement (months)	37
Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	2.52%	Selected annual mileage	6,000
Annual percentage rate	4.9%	Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile

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£28,795

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£514.56 per month

Personal Contract Purchase Example: **Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDi KX1**

Cash price of car	£28,795.00	36 monthly payments	£514.56
Customer deposit	£0	One final payment (GFV)	£11,963.75
Kia deposit contribution	£1,250.00	Total amount payable	£31,737.91
Amount of credit	£27,545.00	Duration of agreement (months)	37
Total charge for credit	£4,192.91	Selected annual mileage	6,000
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Annual percentage rate	4.9%		

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Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2016 and 30/06/2016. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. **Pictures for illustration purposes only.**

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01902 722447.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

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STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

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Also available mini digger with driver
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upholstery

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

DRESSAGE SADDLE, Passier Grand Gilbert, 171/2ins, medium fitting, good condition, cost £1,500, bargain £275. 01952 750821.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

RAPID 7 MK1, 177, full kit. £800. BSA meteor, 22, mint condition. £250. 01785 714660.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
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RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

JACK RUSSELL Chihuahua puppies 8 weeks old, wormed, mom and Dad. £165, 01384 78588.

KITTENS ready for new homes in 1½ to 2 weeks, black and fluffy. Small charge. Phone or text 07969 169696.

TROPICAL FISH namely large specimen. Offers from £100. Call for details. 01922 279639.

WANTED Poodle or Cross, cream/white if poss, good kind, loving home waiting, approx two years upwards. Call 01902 608107.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY

Need loving homes, for Chaz and Dave, 2 heartbreaking, pretty, small, long haired, black and white, 7 month old cats, which were found at 2 weeks old, they were sick and needed feeding around the clock, as they were bravely fighting for their lives, after 4 months Nursing and £400 vet bills, they are at last ready to be re homed, if we cannot find home they will remain with us for the rest of their lives.

0121 502 5027.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 1 BED WILLENHALL, 1 bed Finchfield, 3 Bed Bilston to let. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY 3-bed, unfurnished, detached, GasCH, No Pets / DSS. £575pcm. 07875 049184.

DUDLEY FURNISHED Bedsit, own bath/kitchen. £65-£90 p/w. Mature DSS considered. 07550 002549.

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE TO LET in Lower Gornal, Dudley. Ready to move in 07801 746853

HIGH QUALITY STUDIO FLATS Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700028.

SEDGLEY ONE BED self contained flat, suit single, mature person. No DSS/ref's required. 07948 182489.

overseas property

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7 Jobs

building & construction

CARPENTER REQUIRED Immediate start, own tools and transport Tel 07973 636243

courses

CRH Transport Training Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

MARCH MADNESS !!!!
Driver CPC - £45.
Please call 07950 159094.

employment wanted

DRIVER very experienced, 7.5 tonne licence, van, lorry, seeks any work, full, part time or casual, CPC,any trade. 01922 512935.

PART TIME delivery job required, for female driver experienced in local deliveries. Please contact Michelle on 07779 650640.

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools.
01384 375672 /07527 360303.

SELF EMPLOYED fork lift truck driver with all relevant tickets, seeks part time work to suit both parties. 07722 565279.

full time - general

SEWING MACHINISTS for making car seat covers, experienced in sewing leather. 07955 737007.

motor trade

EXPERIENCED MECHANIC required to work on wide range of vehicles. Must be conversant with modern diagnostic and rectification of faults. Apply in writing to W Pym & Son Ltd., 113 St. Peter's Road, Netherton, Dudley DY2 9HN

nursing & carers

PERSONAL ASSISTANT for holiday / sickness relief to care for a lovely lady with learning disability. To provide assistance with domestic duties and recreational activities and general support for independent living. Lower Gornal area. £8 p.h day shift, sleep-over £28 per night. For details 01902 897617

office & secretarial

Family Department
Merry Hill
LEGAL SECRETARY
to cover maternity leave
We require an experienced legal secretary to cover maternity leave from February 2016 for approximately 1 year. Experience of working in private family law is essential. Candidates must have excellent client care and communication skills and have the ability to work as part of team. In addition candidates must have experience of working with case management, Microsoft Office and audio digital dictation. Please email your CV with cover letter setting out your previous experience to
Vanessa Powell at V.Powell@waldrons.co.uk

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE 3.0, TDI, S LINE QUATTRO
06 reg, one previous owner, 155,000 miles, full Audi Service History, 12 months MoT, recent service, fully loaded, full leather interior, superb condition.
£7,250 ono.
07748 281876.

BMW 320i M-SPORT 4 dr, 6sp, blue, 57 plate, FSH, 12 months MoT, good condition. £5,000 ono. W-ton 07916 61638 / 07543 237183.

CITROEN C1 VTR, 2009, 59k, 3 door, £20 road tax, red, economical, MoT, smashing car, £2,350 ono. 07791 808779.

CITROEN CACTUS FLARE diesel, 64 reg, 12,000 miles, purple, white, black, excellent condition, tax exempt, £9,800. 07914 510769.

CITROEN DS3 DESIGN
2014, 8,811 Miles, red/black, electric windows, fsh, alarm, metallic paint, cruise control, Alloys, Stereo, spare wheel. jack etc.lovely condition.j4 M5.
£5.950 ono
07976616911

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 2014, 1,046 miles, blue, 998cc ecoboost, ac, fsh, bluetooth, one owner, excellent condition. £9,300 ono 07989 248021.

LEXUS 400h 2007, 62k, silver, automatic, Lexus FSH, MoT January 2017, immaculate condition. £12,000. 07906 724484.

MAZDA 5. 56 reg., silver, 10 months MoT, 7-seater, 76,000 miles. Immaculate conditon. £2,800. 01902 653907 or 07827 320179.

NISSAN PIXO, 2009, 73k, MoT, gas, a/c, 4 door, metallic grey/blue. Bargain £2,200 ono.
Telephone 07989 893203.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
1.8 SRi, 06, petrol, manual, 7 seater, 5 dr, silver, 12 months MoT, 81,000 miles, FSH. good condition.
£2,250.
07957 226443.

VW PASSAT Highline 2.0 TDi, blue, FSH, 58 reg, full leather, heated seats, Dab radio, great condition. £3,995 ono. 07734 441987.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C31.4 petrol, 02 reg, 115,000 miles, 5dr, silver, 3 months MoT, new clutch, brake pads, shoes £800 ono. 07497 263503.

CITROEN PICASSO AUTO. 06, 65,000 miles, 12 months MoT, clean inside and out. £1,000. o.n.o. 07855 946489.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO, 2003, 99,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, £300. 07957 491522.

PEUGEOT 206, diesel, 1.4, 2002, good runner / condition, £30 per year road tax. £550. 07758 089629.

ROVER 75 Tourer, 03 reg, FSH, one owner from new, genuine 61,000 miles, immaculate condition. £1,295. 07956 670563.

SUZUKI VITARA 1600 GREEN. 1999. Hard top. 12 months MoT. 92,000 miles, £900. Telephone 07851 289020 after 4pm.

VAUXALL ASTRA CLUB 2000, 86,000 Miles, blue, 1600cc electric windows, MoT Aug,nice cond.2 owners.£500 ono 01785 714528

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7DTi-diesel, X reg, white, full MoT, owned last 8years, excellent condition, multifuction steering wheel, 136k radio/CD, fitted never used electric tow bar, cloth interior, clean, very reliable, **£600 ono. 07866 750420.**

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 2004, 78,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, CD. **£925. 01384 865045.**

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 02, 3-dr, met green, MoT Aug, alloys wheels, good tyres, engine problem, hence £125 ono. 07766 272429.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2005, 77,000 Miles, silver, mot june 2016, 3 door£795 ono 07761532710

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2000, 113,000 miles, black, long MoT, sunroof. Many new parts, runs well but requires a little TLC to make into a lovely car. **£595 ono 01902 665840 or 07531 307480.**

AUTOMATIC

VW GOLF DIESEL AUTOMATIC, T reg new MoT, Cambelt, service etc, excellent condition, any trial, reliable **£1,250. 07800 637961/01902 753545.**

VW GOLF ESTATE, 2002, 205,000 miles, blue, long MoT, diesel, £800 ono. 07867 458869.

BMA www.bmacars.com Est. Here 25 Years
2003 Ford Fiesta Finesse 5 door Hatch Gold Metallic 1242cc **£995**
2003 Peugeot 206 SW Estate 5 Door Silver Metallic 1360cc **£975**
Cars and People Carriers from **£500 FULL MOT**
07956 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

LANDROVER DEFENDER 110 TD5, 2003, 115,000 miles, MoT, one owner, very clean, £6,000. 07768 841443.

VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700CDTi SWB van, 60 plate, high mileage, FSH, MoT December. £3,250. 07948 309727.

driving tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
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www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

BMW R1100GS 1999 T reg, red, 40k miles, full luggage, new tyres and starter motor, excellent condition, £3,000 ono. 07491 068850.

HONDA ANF125 INNOVA 07, 17k, MoT to Feb 2017, new parts, 2 keys, excellent condition, Haynes manual, lock and chain. £800. 01902 787432.

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged / non runners. Cash paid. Peter All Bikes, 01902 312939 bikesallspares@gmail.com

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

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ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available **0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.**

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

spares/parts

BATTERIES FROM £29.99: Corsa, Fiesta, Focus, Clio etc: 2 year guarantee - Wolves Hire - 01902 746723. Tettenhall Road WV6 0LE.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
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Call Bob
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For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
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Ring for quotes on others!

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ADULT CINEMA. The Foxy Lady 01902 490898.Gentlemens Dance Bar opening soon! 01902 405522.

ATTENTION GENTLEMAN 55 TO 63 !
I am a sincere, caring, easy going and loving lady, 59 years old, who WLTM a tall, medium build, genuine male, for romantic nights in / out, who has s GSOH and who enjoys the nice things in life.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P20233, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

DIVORCED HALESOWEN MALE LATE 50'S.
Own house and car.
Looking for attractive lady for LTR.
Box Number P20232 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE TRAVEL BUDDY WANTED
Smoke free, sociable, sense of adventure and humour.
Savvy, size 12 lady, non smoker, OHAC, no dogs, kids or baggage.
WLTM gentleman 55-60ish for days out, possible holidays.
Please reply with photo and positive letter.
Box Number P20236 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

NICE LADY 50
Homely, slim and attractive with 18 year old Daughter, car owner and employed.
Wishes to meet nice, sensible, honest gentleman, 50 - 57.
For Friendship, possible lasting relationship.
Photo appreciated, (will return)
Box Number P20234, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS
Charter Standard Club
Looking for Under 9's Goalkeeper and Outfield Players.
Players for Under 10's, Under 12's, Under 13's and Under 17's/18's.
Also looking for Managers and Coaches.
Contact Tony on 07977 308183 and Keith on 07896 666589.

HALAS HAWKS U11'S
Are looking for a
DEFENDER
to add to a great set of Players.
Training on Wednesdays, 6-7pm.
If interested contact Phil on 07886 369854.

WITHYMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club.
All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.
The following Teams are looking for Players:
U9's West
require experienced
GOALKEEPER & OUTFIELD PLAYERS.
U13's South
require experienced
OUTFIELD PLAYER.
Call Daniel, 07767 684557.
U11's Girls
2015/16 Season require
GOALKEEPER
current school year 4 and 5.
Contact David Gregory 07949 878441.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

DISABILITY TALENT SHOW Do you have a talent, live in the Black Country and have a disability. Come and take part. Alan 07905 261135.

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

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Been left a message? *Pickup* your replies on: **0906 500 3957**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call: **0844 381 5936** and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text Simply text **NEG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**. **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit: **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

To ***Reply*** to members call: **0906 500 3955**
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text: ***Text..*** **REPLY26** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098**. Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for yr safety and security.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

SUE, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with 'Mr Wrong' **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 413007**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. **Text only Box 4078225**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. **Text only Box: 4139156**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh .I am married with open marriage. **Text only Box: 4020257**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701**

YOUNG at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. **Text only to mailbox: 5321154**

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861**

MALE, 46, slim, WLTM a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420721**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790**

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dom female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. **Text only to mailbox: 4347071**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. **Text only to mailbox: 5383053**

MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for a special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5381487**

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking women for sexy fun. **Text only to mailbox: 5383533**

ATTRACTIVE British Indian male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 227154**

ASIAN male, 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WLTM Asian female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 235383**

SEXY Indian male, 40, dark hair/eyes, fit, seeks fit, sporty, sexy, romantic female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301791**

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561**

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160**

ATTRACTIVE professional, Asian male, 43, kind, caring, likes travel, romance, dining, seeks attractive lady, 35-50 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370823**

SLIM attractive man WLTM caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. **Text only mailbox no: 4172082**

BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. **Text only mailbox no: 4656899**

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Police start the week by pocketing a whitewash

THE week began well for West Midlands Police who won their rearranged match at Pockets SC A 5-0 in the Stourbridge & District Snooker League Premier Division.

Leaders Norton Social A routed Moor Pool & Snooker A 5-0, while the police beat Baggeridge Social by the same scoreline.

Hotshots SC A and Amblecote Inst A share fourth place after a 5-0 win over Pockets SC B and a 4-1 over Pockets SC A respectively.

Kinver Const B's 11 point first division lead looked sure to be cut when they slipped up 3-2 against Stourbridge Inst B but second placed Kingswinford Cons B went down 3-2 to Stourbridge Inst A and Wombourne lost at Kinver Const A 3-2. Kingswinford Cons A took advantage taking all five frames at Moor Pool & Snooker C.

Amblecote Inst B won their fourth in a row, 3-2 over Moor Pool & Snooker B. Kinver Const C ended a run of four defeats with a win over Norton Social B.

Second Division leaders Stourbridge Old Edwardians beat Stourbridge Inst C 5-0, Kinver Const D came away from the Amblecote RBL Legion with a 3-2 win and Amblecote RBL A edged out Kingswinford Cons C 3-2.

Results - Premier Division: Norton Social A 5 Moor Pool & Snooker A 0; Baggeridge Social 0 West Midlands Police 5; Hotshots SC A 5 Pockets SC B 0; Pockets SC A 1 Amblecote Inst A 4; Pockets SC A 0 West Midlands Police 5

First Division: Kinver Const B 2 Stourbridge Inst B 3; Kinver Const A 3 Wombourne 2; Kingswinford Cons B 2 Stourbridge Inst A 3; Amblecote Inst B 3 Moor Pool &Snooker B 2; Moor Pool & Snooker C 0 Kingswinford Cons A 5; Kinver Const C 3 Norton Social B 2.

Second Division: Amblecote Inst D 1 Kingswinford Cons D 4; Stourbridge Inst D 1 Kingswinford SC 4; S/B Old Edwardians 5 Stourbridge Inst C 0; Kingswinford Cons C 2 Amblecote RBL A 3; Amblecote RBL B 2 Kinver Const D 3.

Eagles take flight for latest final

Kewford Eagles girls under-14s west squad

A DUDLEY girls football team is chasing more success after reaching their third league trophy final.

Kewford Eagles under-14s girls west, led by Rich Shelley and Kev Hampton, booked their place in the Mercian League Shield final after a 5-3 win over local rivals Stourbridge.

Charity trustee Lynn Boleyn said: "The under-14 girls have done particularly well with this being their eighth final in five years – they have played in three Merit Shield Cup finals, three Stourbridge League cup finals and two Mercian Cup finals – going on to win six of them."

Also having a great season, the club's under-12 girls and Open Ladies top their leagues.

Incentive

Hoping to follow in their footsteps, the next generation of Kewford Girls have started their football journey this month. Fun, friendly Saturday sessions are led by qualified coaches and assisted by girls from teams at every age. With the added incentive of football in the Stourbridge and District Youth League to look forward to, Kewford hope to attract 20 young players for new teams next season.

The club is keen to develop individuals and doesn't select players on the basis of ability but instead creates a positive environment in which girls can grow their game.

Interested girls in school years 3, 4 and 5 should get in touch via kewfordeagles.co.uk

'Yozza' is counted out in defeat to Hankey

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was 'counted out' by fellow West Midlands darter Ted Hankey when they met in the BDO Scottish Open over the weekend.

Hankey prevailed 5-1 in their quarter-final clash at the Normandy Cosmopolitan Hotel in Renfrew.

Hughes, since his breakthrough semi-final at the World Championship, has won all of his groups on the non-televised 'floor' circuit and retained the Romanian Classic.

The Black Country thrower was up and running with 3-0 whitewashes over Kevin MacAfee and Scott McConville, with a 3-1 win over Stuart Lavendar getting him out of Group 33.

'Yozza' then defeated Stephen Lennon 4-1 as play was upgraded to the best-of-seven format, before shutting out John Eyre 4-0 at the last 32 stage.

The 29-year-old saw off Lakeside quarter-finalist Dennis Harbour 4-2 to set up the clash with two-time world champion Hankey.

Hughes also reached the final of the mixed triples alongside Paula Jacklin and Chris Fider, losing out to Rachael Brooks, Sven Wens and Day Cardinaal.

County players Mark Craddock and Danny Key also won their groups.

The West Midlands' Craddock whitewashed Ralph Hurst, Martin Brophy, Michael MacLean and Bruce Montgomery before a 4-3 defeat to Euan Callander.

Staffordshire's Key shut out Ronnie Jackson 3-0 before 3-2 results over Andrew Davidson and Robert Jackson, either side of a 3-1 verdict against Brian Lokken. He then lost 4-2 to Harbour.

Victory to mark big day for Broadhurst

Stourbridge 2 Colwyn Bay 0

STOURBRIDGE moved to sixth spot with two late goals – but the figure that really mattered was 600.

Leon Broadhurst made his magical 600th appearance for the club and a special presentation was made to him at the end of the game.

The midfielder will have enjoyed other games more than this sometimes scrappy and bad-tempered Evo-Stik Premier affair.

But it remained quite an entertaining match, albeit a frustrating one for the Glassboys who toiled against 10 men for a breakthrough which didn't come until the 75th minute.

Stourbridge pressed from the start, with early chances for Sean Geddes and Karl Hawley, and their chances of victory looked greatly improved with a sending-off for the visitors on 18 minutes.

Chris Lait embarked on an amazing run from the edge of his own penalty area to that of the opposition, leaving defenders trailing in his wake. But he was impeded by defender Jordan Fagbola, with the referee deciding he had denied a goalscoring opportunity and dismissing him.

But Stourbridge couldn't take advantage right away, Hawley sending a volley over the bar and Justin Richards looping a header wide.

Advantage

The second period was equally frustrating in the early stages of the half, with Stourbridge unable to create clear-cut chances and Colwyn Bay almost took advantage when Liam Gibson's free-kick from the left was headed poorly wide by Antonie Boland.

The vital opening goal eventually came on 75 minutes when Geddes' corner was met by Dan Scarr whose header lacked pace but found its way into the net through a crowd of players.

Stuart Pierpoint saw a deflected header into the net disallowed for offside as Stourbridge looked for the second.

But they finally managed to double the lead in injury time when substitute Drew Canavan produced a delightful ball for Ashley Vincent to slam home at the far post.

Stourbridge manager Gary Hackett was delighted to get the win and said his team's patience paid off in the end.

"Fair play to Colwyn Bay," he said. "They came to do a job and got men behind the ball. They made it difficult and it was getting quite frustrating at times, so it was a patience game and we had to wait.

"But I had no doubt once we got the first goal that we would go on and get a second," he added.

"I'm delighted to get the three points because at this stage of the season all you can do is keep piling the points on and hope things go our way.

"So I was pleased with the way the players applied themselves throughout the 90 minutes. At one stage everyone was getting frustrated, but we stuck at it," Hackett said.

Stourbridge were travelling to Nantwich Town in the FA Trophy on Tuesday night – at the third time of asking following two postponements – with Scarr out for 10 days and Matt Dodd suspended.

Stourbridge: Gould, Green (Canavan 65), Scarr, Geddes (Whittall 78), Smikle, Pierpoint, Billingham, Broadhurst, Hawley, Richards (Vincent 72), Lait. Subs not used: Hull, Price. Attendance: 479

Stourbridge manager Gary Hackett congratulates Leon Broadhurst ahead of his 600th appearance

Town recover to edge thriller over Casuals

Cradley 3 Wolves Casuals 2

CRADLEY Town came back from a 2-1 deficit to edge this five-goal West Midlands League Premier thriller at home to Wolverhampton Casuals.

The hosts grabbed a second-minute goal in the topsy-turvy clash when Jovan Blake-Walker beat Casuals keeper James Scarratt with a shot on the turn from 20 yards.

Five minutes later Liam Hughes equalised for Casuals when he floated an 18-yard effort over Cradley keeper Shaun Edwards.

Casuals took control as Danny Cresswell netted at the far post from a corner after 56 minutes to go in front.

But the hosts recovered as substitute Charlie Gregg levelled with a good finish in the 71st minute. A minute later Oliver Oatley bagged the winner.

Town sink to new low with 10-goal defeat

Ellesmere 11 Tipton Town 1

LUCKLESS Tipton hit a new West Midlands Premier low with an 11-1 thrashing at Ellesmere Rangers.

With Ellesmere's ground undergoing renovation, the fixture was played on the artificial all-weather pitch at Shrewsbury College. Rangers, now well versed on the surface, were six up before Tipton netted through a fine individual effort by Alvin Brown.

Ryan Booth opened the scoring and a brace from Louis Irvine left the home side three up. Josh Rowdall, Booth and Jamie Haynes made it six before Brown's goal.

Ellesmere powered on with goals from Judd Ellis, an Irvine piledriver, Connor Courtenay and Haynes again before Ellis wrapped it up.

Tipton were home to Bridgnorth Town last night (Wednesday).

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Eagles wing way to another final
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Broad smiles as Leon reaches 600
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Sterling effort earns Tividale another draw

Tividale 1 Spalding 1

TIVIDALE earned their ninth draw of the season against a Spalding side whose sights are firmly on the Evo-Stik Division One South play-off places.

There was nothing between the sides and, if anything, the visitors took the lead against the run of play.

The goal came on eight minutes when Tividale left-back Scott Devlin failed to get any distance on his headed clearance. The ball dropped nicely to Tom Waumsley and the striker took a couple of touches before firing past Tividale keeper Tom Turner.

For the remainder of the half goalmouth action was at a minimum as the two sides cancelled each other out.

But on 33 minutes Tividale were back in the game. Tividale right-back Lewis Wright picked up possession on halfway and hit a crossfield ball to Chris Rabone who was brought down by Spalding defender Paul Walker as he raced into the box.

Top scorer Chris Sterling stepped up and netted his 15th goal of the season as keeper Michael Duggan dived the wrong way.

The visitors had a good chance on 41 minutes when captain Nathan Stainfield rose unmarked to Dan Lawlor's corner but headed over the bar.

Tividale started the second half with possibly their best move of the game. Shane Grainger and Rabone played a neat one-two and Grainger whipped in a low cross that Sterling met first-time, only for his shot to be blocked.

Spalding's Dan Banister unleashed a great run on 52 minutes but could not trouble Turner with his shot.

Sterling saw his looping header cleared off the Spalding line. Then Banister did find the net, reacting fastest to a deflection, but was offside.

Pottinger looking for Cradley to get off to flying start

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger has called on his side to lay down a marker early in their 2016 National League campaign.

The Heathens will kick-off their season with a double header against Belle Vue on Easter Monday, March 28.

They will also face local rivals Birmingham at Perry Barr on April 20 in a meeting Pottinger is already viewing as a major opportunity to put one over on the reigning champions.

With a return to a play-off system in the third tier next season, Pottinger knows a fast start is not imperative.

But he is keen to see them send a message out to their rivals to restore their reputation as the team to beat and build some momentum early in the campaign.

"We usually have a pre-season challenge of something but we are straight into the National League meetings this year and we are excited to get started," Pottinger said.

"With the return to the play-offs it maybe isn't as important to get off to a good start.

"Having said that we are desperate to hit the ground running."

Celebrations as athletes race to victory

Division Three champions celebrate

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club completed their final Birmingham and District Cross Country League fixture in Gloucester on Saturday. With a sizable lead at the top of the table only a disaster could have prevented the blue hoops from taking the title.

There was no relaxing around the four-lap course around Plock Court, though. With Nuneaton's Matt Amos taking victory in 35.44 Ben Foster led the hoops home in second place in 36.51 with Rob Meredith taking third in 36.58.

Matt Biggs claimed eighth place and James Wright finished 11th. Dave Norman and Stuart Perkins claimed 20th and 21st positions respectively to complete the A team but there was a procession of DK runners stacked up behind them.

With the A team scoring a mere 65 points, victory was assured. In fact the B team would have also placed highly in third with DK sandwiching hosts Severn AC. This performance cemented DK's position at the top. DK's B team also picked up a championship trophy with 983 points.

The ladies closed their season around a muddy field in Wolverhampton, finising 22nd of 34.

DK Running Club

DK HOPES GO FOR A BURTON

Burton 24 DK 15

A WIN over Dudley Kingswinford lifted Burton to fifth place in Midlands One West. The game was very much in the balance at half-time and it was good performance from Burton to secure victory.

Burton kicked off on Peel Croft and DK cleared to touch. The hosts kept play in the visitors 22 but were met with excellent defence until they were awarded with a penalty. Dave Archer kicked wide and DK were able to enter the Burton half for the first time.

When Dudley were awarded a scrum on the Burton 22, the home side edged forward before DK raced through for a try in the corner, but the conversion attempt went wide. Burton replied with a try from Alfie Grant. Archer kicked the conversion and Burton had the lead.

DK piled on the pressure in reply but Burton absorbed it successfully before Jack Neale made a half break only for the ball to be knocked on at the ruck. DK continued to pressure and hit the post with a penalty.

Changed

The visitors were dominant at this point and produced an excellent try, the conversion attempt successful to give them a 12-7 lead.

The lead changed hands again when Josh Cartwright touched down for Burton, Archer converting.

DK kept attacking though, and while overall Burton were very well disciplined a penalty cost them three points on the stroke of half-time.

However, those 14 first half points were all that DK would muster.

After the interval, a high tackle gave DK a shot at goal which was missed but tellingly Archer was able to find the target from 40m moments later.

With their noses in front, Burton pressure told when Nick Oxley managed to squeeze in beside the left-hand corner flag. Archer's kick gave his side a nine point cushion.

DK attacked back, but despite further pressure, Burton were able to hold on for a second half clean sheet.

DK's Ryan Wicketts eyes up the opposition as he goes on a run in the clash against Burton

Heavy weather made of winning return

Stour 25 Huddersfield 19

STOURBRIDGE returned to winning ways against basement boys Huddersfield, but they made heavy weather of it, securing their winning lead with barely 10 minutes left to play.

Centre Chris Bell's penalty put the visitors into an early lead, a converted try for second row Nick Rhodes cancelled out by Stour flanker Nigel Mukaraati's score, but Bell extended the lead to 16-7 at half-time with two further penalties.

Outside half Chris Scott returned from injury to bag two second half penalties and the crucial touchline conversion of scrum half Toby Handley's try. Bell hit back with a penalty for the visitors but the game was sealed in the dying seconds by Handley's second try.

Next Thursday, February 25, the club's Stourton Park home hosts the European Police Rugby Cup tie between Great Britain and France. Kick off is at 7pm and admission is £10.

Innings over too quickly for Enville B

Hagley (130-5) beat Enville 'A' (87-2) by 43 runs

HAGLEY openers made a steady start against the Enville bowlers – Jo Lennon was run out for 17 after falling in a heap mid-wicket to the customary sympathy of both sides. Paul Morgan was also run out following some misunderstanding.

John McDonnell, making his best score of the season and looking comfortable, continued to score with ease, while the remaining Hagley batsman went for quick runs, sacrificing their wickets to post a decent 130 for Enville to chase.

The suicidal calling bug affected Enville too in their reply. Rhodri Parfitt was the first to go, out for 10 with the score on 29. Opener Matt Branch and Spencer Mann tried to hit the ball out of the hall through the back wall instead of working it to the angles. This was not productive and frustration built as they fell behind the scoring rate.

Branch eventually retired but took too long for his 25. Credit though some fine bowling from Dan Giles returning 1-18 off three overs to keep Enville in check as they finished on only 87-2.

Cookley (97-5) beat Enville 'B' (25 all out) by 72 runs

ENVILLE 'B' elected to bowl and the Cookley openers struggled to judge runs and scoring was slow. A good opening spell from Tom Davies, three overs for 19, kept Enville in the game.

John Stanaway produced his best performance with 34 no but the remaining Cookley batsmen fell by the wayside, finishing on 97-5.

Making a disastrous start, Enville lost three wickets in the first two overs.

Cookley opening bowlers Dan Soley and Kevin Morrissey aided by some more calamitous running between the wickets accounted for the remainder of the Enville order in five overs.

Win lifts students above opposition

Penncroft 1 Team Dudley 2

TEAM Dudley recorded a vital win 2-1 win at Penncroft in West Midlands Division One. Goals from Myles Nettleford and Alex Pinches enabled them to leapfrog their opposition.

Dudley started well on a tricky pitch at Goodyear Pavilion. They went ahead on 11 minutes when Nettleford tapped home. The second came on 24 minutes, keeper Ben Czerepaninec pushing out Marc Lawrence's bobbling shot and Pinches side-footing home.

James Hawthorne fouled Curtis Smith for a penalty converted by Omari Lee, but the students held on.

★★★

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